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CONTENTS

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

13 January Middle East and South Asia Review 1

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Ministerial Council Meets in Tunis 3
Session Begins 12 Jan *[KUNA]* 3
U.S.-Libyan Crisis Discussed *[INA]* 3
Klibi, Al-Talhi on Attack *[Tunis Radio]* 4
Libyan Minister Condemns Attack *[JANA]* 4
'Arafat Addresses Committee *[KUNA]* 5
Lebanon Crisis Discussed *[KUNA]* 5
Committee on Lebanon Formed *[Radio Monte Carlo]* 5
More on Lebanon Committee *[KUNA]* 6
UAE State Minister's Address *[WAKH]* 6
Communique Denounces Downings *[KUNA]* 6
'Aziz on Arab League Session *[INA]* 7
Communique Supports Arms Ban *[SPA]* 7
Council Concludes Proceedings *[Tunis Radio]* 7
Morocco's Filali Previews Maghreb Summit *[MAP]* 8

Palestinian Affairs

UN Grants Palestine Mission State Status *[Sanaa VOP]* 9
'Uprising' Committee Resolutions Reported *[INA]* 9
PLO's Al-Surani Cited on Provisional Government *[AL-WATAN 11 Jan]* 9
'Arafat on Greek Nonrecognition of Palestine *[Algiers VOP]* 10

ARAB AFRICA

Egypt

Further on Visit of Austrian Chancellor 11
Mubarak, Vranitzky News Conference *[MENA]* 11
Signs Cooperation Accord *[MENA]* 12
Mubarak Dinner Speech *[MENA]* 12
Chancellor's Response *[MENA]* 14
Al-Baz Makes Proposals on Palestinian Government *[AL-ITTIHAD 11 Jan]* 14
Seminar on Mideast Peace Issues Communique *[MENA]* 15
Commentary on Shamir's Position on Mideast *[Cairo Radio]* 15
Editorial on Shamir's Recent Peace Initiative *[AL-AHRAM 11 Jan]* 16
U.S. Congressional Delegation Arrives for Visit 16
Received by Mubarak *[Cairo Radio]* 16
Meets With Abu Ghazalah *[MENA]* 16
Al-Majid Interviewed on Chemical Weapons, Peace *[Paris LE FIGARO 9 Jan]* 16
Sidqi Says No Date Set for IMF, World Bank Talks *[MENA]* 18
Minister on Power Plant Cooperation With USSR *[MENA]* 18
UAE Economy Minister Arrives in Cairo 12 Jan *[MENA]* 18
Military Industry Head on Deals, Production *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 11 Jan]* 18
Gas Production To Be 'Doubled' in 3 Years *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 11 Jan]* 19

Libya

U.S. Pilot Body To Be Given to Vatican 13 Jan *[JANA]* 19
10 Jan U.S. Fighter Plane Incident Protested *[JANA]* 19
Al-Turayki: Incident Still Open *[Paris International]* 20
Maneuvers Violate International Law *[JANA]* 20
Maneuvers Pose Danger to Region *[JANA]* 20
Aviation Group Protests Maneuvers *[JANA]* 21
U.S. Vetoes UN Condemnation of 'Aggression' *[JANA]* 21
Sudanese Condemnation of U.S. Cited *[JANA]* 21
Malaysian Group Visits 'Pharmaceutical' Plant *[Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA]* 22
U.S. 'Aggression' Discussed With Algerians *[JANA]* 23
11 Jan Tunis Talks Held With Algerian Officials *[JANA]* 23
Algerian Trade Cooperation Protocol Signed *[JANA]* 23
Moroccan Social Security Agreement Ratified *[JANA]* 23
Arab Opposition Parties Conference Postponed *[MENA]* 24
Burkina Faso's Lengani Arrives 12 Jan *[Voice of Greater Arab Homeland]* 24
Al-Qadhdhafi Receives YAR Delegation *[JANA]* 24

Morocco

King Hassan Receives UN Envoy 11 Dec *[MAP]* 24
Communique on Malian President's Visit Issued *[MAP]* 24
Libyan Official Discusses Nationals in Libya *[Rabat Radio]* 25

Sudan

Justice Minister Discusses Southern Rebels *[Paris LE MONDE 24 Dec]* 25
Democratic Unionist Deputy Denies Return Reports *[SUNA]* 26
Al-Turabi Stops in Libya En Route to Tunis *[JANA]* 26

Tunisia

Parties Condemn Downing of Libyan Planes *[LE RENOUVEAU 6 Jan]* 26
President Receives Algerian Foreign Minister *[Tunis Radio]* 27

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Foreign Minister Addresses Chemical Warfare Talks *[KUNA]* 28

Oman

UK Foreign Secretary Talks With Counterpart *[WAKH]* 29
Meets With Sultan Qabus *[WAKH]* 29

PDRY

PLO's 'Arafat Addresses Supreme People's Council *[Aden Radio]* 29
Departs After Visit *[Aden Radio]* 29

Qatar

Iranian Economic Delegation Arrives 10 Jan *[WAKH]* 30
Economic Talks Begin *[WAKH]* 30
Meetings Continue *[WAKH]* 30

Saudi Arabia

'Source' Denies Deal Made With Syria Over Egypt *[SPA]* 30
King Fahd Receives Pakistan's Benazir Bhutto *[SPA]* 30
'Arafat Meets With Foreign Minister in Tunis *[SPA]* 31

IRAQ

RCC Vice Chairman Addresses Islamic Conference *[INA]* 32
Reportage on Official Talks With GDR Delegation 32
Talks Begin 10 Jan *[INA]* 32
GDR's Goetting Sees Hammadi *[INA]* 33
Goetting Meets With Ramadan *[Baghdad Radio]* 33
Conveys Greetings to President *[INA]* 33
Poland's Jastrzebski Attends Cooperation Talks 33
Attends 10th Session *[INA]* 33
Meets With Ramadan *[Baghdad Radio]* 33
Sees Industry Minister *[INA]* 34
Economic Cooperation Pact Signed *[INA]* 34
Makes Statement, Departs *[INA]* 34
Ramadan-Led Delegation Leaves for Cairo *[INA]* 34
Oil Minister Receives U.S. Representative *[INA]* 34
Trade Minister Receives SFRY Official *[INA]* 35
Joint Committee Talks Begin *[INA]* 35
Daily Advises Iran To Abandon 'Blackmail' Course *[INA]* 35
Paper Assails Syrian Proposal on Lebanon *[INA]* 35

ISRAEL

Shamir on Peace Plans, U.S. Dialogue With PLO *[THE JERUSALEM POST 13 Jan]* 37
U.S. Dialogue Aids Uprising *[Jerusalem Radio]* 37
Involvement in Amal-Hizballah Clashes Denied *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 37
Channels for PLO Funding of Uprising Detailed *[MAR'ARIV 13 Jan]* 38
Appointment of New Mosad Chief Examined *[HA'R 13 Jan]* 38
Comment on Successor's Tasks *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 13 Jan]* 40
Egypt Denies Not Issuing Visas to Israelis *[Jerusalem Radio]* 40
Bulgaria Signs Agreement on Goods Purchases *[HA'ARETZ 12 Jan]* 41
Settlers Castigate Shamir at Memorial Service *[Jerusalem Radio]* 41
Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories 41
More on 12 Jan Incidents *[THE JERUSALEM POST 13 Jan]* 41
Firebomb 'Squad' Exposed *[Jerusalem Radio]* 42
Firebombs in East Jerusalem *[Jerusalem Radio]* 42
'Improved' Rubber Bullet Proves Equally Fatal *[THE JERUSALEM POST 12 Jan]* 42
New IDF Appointments Announced 13 Jan *[HA'ARETZ 13 Jan]* 43
15-Percent Drop in Tourism Reported *[THE JERUSALEM POST 13 Jan]* 43
Large Haul of Heroin Seized at Airport *[THE JERUSALEM POST 12 Jan]* 43
Shamir Plan 'Rigid on the Ashes of Camp David' *[AL-FAJR 11 Jan]* 43

JORDAN

Reportage on U.S. Congressional Delegation's Visit 45
Al-Rifa'i Receives Delegation *[Amman Radio]* 45
King Husayn Sees Delegation *[Amman Radio]* 45
AL-DUSTUR on Meeting *[11 Jan]* 45
AL-RA'Y on Meeting *[12 Jan]* 46
King Husayn Sends Condolences on Hirohito's Death *[Amman Radio]* 46
Labor Minister Receives ILO Fact-Finding Mission *[Amman TV]* 47
AL-RA'Y Comments on Paris Conference *[10 Jan]* 47

LEBANON

Arab Foreign Ministers Form Committee on Lebanon *[RFL]* 48
Al-Huss Cables Arab League on Council Meeting *[Beirut Radio]* 48
'Awn's Cabinet Sends Memo to Arab League *[VOL]* 48
Iranian Embassy on Amal-Hizballah Fighting *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 49
Islamic Amal Leader Appeals for Dialogue *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 49
General Strike Protests Amal-Hizballah Fighting *[Beirut Radio]* 50

Reportage on Continued Amal-Hizballah Fighting 50
Amal Group 'Annihilated' in Jba' *[RFL]* 50
Amal Fails To Capture Jba' *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 50
Jba' Surrounded by Fire *[RFL]* 50
Fighting in Iqlim al-Tuffah *[RFL]* 50
Israeli 'Warplanes' Fly Over Beirut 13 Jan *[Beirut Radio]* 50
Antiaircraft Fire at Planes *[VOL]* 50

SYRIA

Al-Shar' Comments on Arab League Meeting, Lebanon *[Damascus TV]* 51
European Parliamentary Delegation Arrives *[Damascus Radio]* 51
Sees Assembly Speaker *[Damascus Radio]* 51
Reportage on Visit of Omani State Minister 51
Arrives With Delegation *[Damascus Radio]* 51
Meets With Al-Asad *[Damascus Radio]* 51
Talks With Al-Asad, Counterpart *[Damascus Radio]* 51
Departs Following Visit *[Damascus Radio]* 52
Ba'th Party Spokesman on 'New U.S. Aggression' *[Damascus Radio]* 52
Paper Views UN Debate on Libyan Complaint *[Damascus Radio]* 52

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Committee Discusses Food Shortages in Kabul *[Kabul Radio]* 53
Armed Forces' Efforts Praised *[Kabul Radio]* 53
54 Long-Range Rockets Seized in Kariz-e Mir *[BAKHTAR]* 53
Armed Forces Operations Against Rebels Noted *[Kabul Radio]* 53
'Severe Clashes,' Mujahidin Attacks Reported *[Islamabad Radio]* 54
Violations Notices Submitted to UN Mission 54
Notice No 180 *[Kabul Radio]* 54
Notice No 181 *[BAKHTAR]* 54
Notice No 182 *[BAKHTAR]* 54

Bangladesh

Accord Reached With India To Check Border Crime *[Dhaka International]* 55

India

Commentary Assails U.S. for Tension in Mideast *[Delhi International]* 55
Police Kill 3 'Hardcore Terrorists' in Punjab *[Delhi Radio]* 56

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Delivers Friday Prayers Sermon *[IRNA]* 56
Soviet Gas Delegation Arrives, Signs Protocol *[Tehran TV]* 57
Cairo Papers on Khomeyni's Message to Gorbachev *[IRNA]* 57
Musavi, Delegation To Visit Rome, Warsaw *[IRNA]* 58
Mahallati on UN Moves To Break Talks Deadlock *[IRNA]* 58
Lavasani Leaves for Nonaligned Meeting in Cyprus *[IRNA]* 58
Khamene'i Rejects Dependence on World Technology *[IRNA]* 58
Afghan Opposition Leaders To Attend Seminar *[IRNA]* 59
Bazargan's Freedom Movement Files for Permit *[IRNA]* 59
Paper Assesses Future of Tudeh Party *[KEYHAN HAVA'I 21 Dec]* 59

Pakistan

Afghan Allegation of 10 Jan Violation 'Rejected' *[Islamabad Radio]* 61
Bhutto Holds News Conference After Saudi Visit *[Islamabad Radio]* 61
Urges USSR To Complete Withdrawal *[AFP]* 62
2 Jet Fighters Crash After 'Technical Problems' *[AFP]* 62

Sri Lanka

LTTE Calls For Boycott of Parliamentary Polls *[AFP]* 63
TULF Opposes Withdrawal of Indian Forces *[AFP]* 63
'Detainees' Freed as Emergency Rule Ends *[AFP]* 63
More Detainees To Be Freed *[Colombo International]* 64
Domestic Flights To Restart After 5-Year Haitus *[LANKAPUVATH]* 64
'Subversives' Kill 3 Soldiers, Wound 5 *[LANKAPUVATH]* 65

13 January Middle East and South Asia Review

LD1301142489 [Editorial Report]

Libya

JANA announced that Libya would hand over the body of a U.S. pilot to a Vatican representative 13 January as a "humanitarian" initiative. The pilot's aircraft was shot down during the U.S. "aggression" in April 1986.

As for the recent downing of two Libyan jets, Libya's UN representative told Paris radio that "we cannot say that the affair is closed." Libyan statements cited by JANA urged the United States to stop upcoming military maneuvers off the Libyan coast, contending that the U.S. exercises will disrupt international civil aviation and pose a danger to it. Another statement claimed that U.S. fighter planes flew near a Libyan airliner in Greek air space 10 January, adding that Libya will consider the repetition of such behavior a "threat" to international air navigation.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Foreign Ministers' Conference—Arab foreign ministers discussed the Lebanese crisis and the U.S. "aggression" against Libya during their 12 January meeting in the Tunisian capital, Tunis radio noted. The ministers issued a communique condemning the U.S. downing of two Libyan planes and warning the United States that any action against Libya will have "negative repercussions" on Arab-U.S. relations. They welcomed Libya's declared readiness to solve its differences with the United States through negotiations.

On Lebanon, the conferees decided to form a ministerial committee which will make contacts with all Lebanese sides and will use its good offices in an attempt to achieve national accord, the radio disclosed. The committee comprises the foreign ministers of Kuwait, Tunisia, Jordan, the UAE, Algeria, Sudan, and the Arab League secretary general.

Commenting on Syria's absence from the committee, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said his country had asked to be excluded in order to allow the "Arab brothers" to acquaint themselves with the reality of the Lebanese crisis on their own, Damascus television reported. Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz said the ministerial committee should present its findings to the next Arab summit which must take the necessary "hard decisions," according to INA. Meanwhile, the UAE minister of state for foreign affairs told the conference that an extraordinary Arab summit should be held on the Lebanese issue, KUNA noted.

The foreign ministers also issued a communique expressing support for the final declaration of the Paris conference on banning chemical weapons, but emphasizing the Arab view that the possession and use of all weapons of mass destruction should be prohibited, SPA reported. In this regard, the communique welcomed Paragraph 6 of the Paris declaration, which calls for efforts to realize general and complete disarmament.

Maghreb Summit—In an interview cited by MAP, a Moroccan official revealed that Maghreb leaders are planning to hold a summit conference in Morocco during January.

Lebanon

Fierce house-to-house fighting raged in Jba' 12 January, and an Amal Movement official stated that his side was advancing, according to Beirut radio. However, the pro-Hizballah clandestine Voice of the Oppressed radio subsequently stressed that Amal's "brutal assaults" had failed to dislodge Hizballah from its positions in the town. Hizballah killed or captured all members of an Amal unit which attempted to infiltrate the area held by the "mujahidin," the radio said. Violent clashes continued in Jba' and other parts of Iqlim al-Tuffah 13 January, according to the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon.

In Iran, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani told Friday worshippers that Amal and Hizballah "are both committing murder" and Iran is "disgusted," according to IRNA. The Iranian Embassy in Beirut condemned the Amal-Hizballah clashes as "serious sedition" and called for an end to the fighting, Voice of the Oppressed noted. The radio accused Amal of rejecting any attempt at reconciliation.

Regarding Syria's relations with Hizballah, Voice of Lebanon radio reported that Syrian intelligence services recently apprehended a Hizballah network inside Syria which was cooperating with the Muslim Brotherhood. According to Radio Free Lebanon, the Amal-Hizballah conflict is linked with a "secret" Syrian decision to "terminate" Hizballah's role in Lebanon. In response, Hizballah has decided to use its foreign hostages as an "important card" if its presence is threatened. Hizballah has reinforced its guards for the hostages and has moved hostages from the Al-Biqa' Valley to the Beirut area, the radio said.

Israel: Occupied Territories

A 12-year-old boy was shot dead by IDF gunfire during disturbances in Tulkarm 12 January, THE JERUSALEM POST reported. Residents were protesting the death of another youth who had died earlier as a result of wounds sustained 1 January. At least 9 other people were wounded in the clashes in Tulkarm and the overall number of wounded throughout the territories was at least 28, THE POST said. The casualties included a suspected collaborator who was shot in Nabulus.

Egypt

President Husni Mubarak urged Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to respond to the "voice of peace," MENA reported. Mubarak added that although he is willing to visit Israel if it will lead to progress on the Middle East problem, he cannot do so while Shamir continues to refuse to make territorial concessions, refuses an international peace conference, and does not "give something in return".

Iran

A Soviet technical delegation arrived in Tehran to assess the possibilities of exporting Iranian gas to the USSR, Tehran television reported.

Afghanistan

Soviet leaders "firmly intend" to respect the Geneva agreement on Afghanistan and the second stage of the troop withdrawal will start "soon", Soviet Deputy Defense Minister General Vitaliy Shabanov told a Moscow news conference according to AFP.

In Pakistan, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto stated that she expects the USSR to abide by its commitment to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan by 15 February, Islamabad radio noted. She also welcomed the plan for a consultative council to supervise elections in Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze left Moscow for a working visit to Kabul, TASS reported.

Mujahidin attacks in Faryab Province resulted in 50 troops and militia killed and 130 others captured, according to Islamabad radio. On the other hand, BAKHTAR reported that more than 100 "extremists" were killed and 68 wounded as a result of mopping-up operations in 6 other provinces.

Shortages of food and basic materials as a result of attacks on food convoys were reported by Kabul radio. Additional supplies of flour to Kabul bakeries have been authorized in an attempt to improve bread supplies, the radio noted.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Ministerial Council Meets in Tunis

Session Begins 12 Jan

LD1201175989 Kuwait KUNA in English 1349 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] Tunis, Jan 12 (KUNA)—The emergency session for the Arab League council on the U.S. aggression against Libya started here Thursday [12 January].

Taking the podium at the public session, Somalia's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mohammed Ali Hamed expressed hope that Arab states stand alongside Libya against the U.S. provocations.

Hamed, whose country chairs the current session of League's Council, also hoped that Washington changes its hostile stance toward the Arab world in general and Libya in particular.

Speaking next was Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi who affirmed that the convocation of the council for the second time upon Libya's request justifies the dangerous situation undergone by this sisterly state.

Klibi indicated that the Arab reaction following the Dec 26 extraordinay session to look into the U.S. threats against Libya should have been enough to ease the tension which reigned over the U.S.-Arab realtions, especially after Washington's decision to open a dialogue with the PLO.

The League's chief said that the Jan 4 U.S. downing of two Libyan jets over the Mediterranean cannot be treated separately from the U.S. anti-Libya campaign, on claims that Tripoli owns a plant capable of producing chemical weapons.

He added that the U.S. itself owns the biggest stock of chemical weapons, so has Israel which used these internationally-banned weapons in Lebanon and the occupied territories.

Klibi, on the other hand, saluted Saudi Arabia's efforts, which resulted in the resumption of relations between Syria and Morocco, hoping that all the gaps in the Arab wall would be mended, so that Arab states can strongly face all issues relating to their national security.

Libyan Foreign Minister Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, addressing the conferees, described the U.S. aggression against his country as "premeditated" and an introduction to a broader offensive.

Al-Talhi said that his country has been frank in its statements regarding the U.S. allegations that Libya owns a chemical weapons plant.

He re-affirmed that the alleged chemical weapons plant is just a medicine factory and that Washington claims aim at justifying and hiding its hostile intentions against Libya.

The Libyan foreign minister reviewed what the U.S. has done since the withdrawal of its forces from Libya back in 1970 and the actions that followed, most fierce of which was the 1986 aggression.

He noted that, through its policies, the U.S. is trying to break the Arab world into small entities, in order to serve its expansionist interests and to strengthen the Zionist state.

The Somalian minister of state for foreign affairs then asked that the current session be adjourned, in order to resume meeting behind closed doors.

U.S.-Libyan Crisis Discussed

JN1201162489 Baghdad INA in English 1510 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Tunis, Jan. 12, INA—The foreign ministers level emergency meeting of the Arab League Council began here this afternoon to discuss the American threats against Libya.

Secretary-General of the Arab League Mr. Chedli Klibi gave an address in which he confirmed the importance of enhancing Arab solidarity against all challenges.

He said the issue of threats directed against our countries confirmed that the national security is an indivisible unity and also confirmed the necessity of adopting responsible arrangements to enhance that solidarity and to support capabilities of the Arab countries on repelling every emergency.

He added that unity of the Arab rank was a vital matter to fill the gaps in the Arab wall so that the Arab countries will be able to strongly confront all the issues dealing with their national security and also the necessity of accelerating the exerted efforts for removing all the obstacles that were still delaying enhancement of our joint action.

He also said that meeting of the League's Council in an emergency session for the second time in response to Libya's request gives prominence to the danger of the situation to which a sisterly country is exposed.

Then, Mr. Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, the Libyan foreign minister, gave a speech in which he said that America was creating pretexts to launch a large military aggression against Libya at the time when Libya had affirmed its non- possession of any plant for chemical wepaons and that it was abiding by the international agreements and Geneva conventions in this respect.

He also warned against dangers of the American intended aggression and said it was aimed against all the Arabs to prevent them from following the path of industrial and scientific advancement.

He also clarified that America was trying to separate the question of downing two Libyan aircraft, 50-miles off shore the Libyan coast from its aggression which was aiming, at a later stage, at hitting miltiary and economic installations. [passage omitted]

Klibi, Al-Talhi on Attack

LD1201164089 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] The proceedings of the extraordinary Arab League ministerial council session began this afternoon in Tunis at the ministerial level to discuss the U.S. aggression against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

Chedli Klibi, secretary general of the Arab League, described in his opening address, the gravity of the situation surrounding the Jamahiriyah, pointing out the contradictions in U.S. policy in respect of chemical and nuclear weapons, explaining that it is a policy based on harsh and unacceptable discrimination between a state allowed to do everything that has been banned and other states. He stressed that such policy should be vigorously rejected.

Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, secretary of the people's committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison of the Jamahiriyah, described, in his address, the U.S. aggression as a prelude to a wider aggression aimed at striking Libyan economic and military targets.

The Libyan official noted that these practices, which represent a continuous course of action against Libya since it demanded the evacuation of U.S. bases from Libyan soil, are actually aimed at deterring Arabs as a whole from possessing any weapon that threatens the Zionist enemy. Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi expressed the Jamahiriyah's gratitude and appreciation to the Arab countries for their solidarity with Libya, calling for the adoption of a unified Arab stand in the face of U.S. aggression and threats.

The council then continued its proceedings in closed session.

Libyan Minister Condemns Attack

LD1301095789 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0730 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Text] Tunis, 13 Jan (JANA)—The brother secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison has rejected U.S. allegations concerning Libyan production of chemical weapons.

In his speech at the emergency Arab foreign ministers council meeting that the real motives behind the U.S. aggression is to make excuses in order to repeat the military aggression against Libya as a manifestation of the ongoing U.S. policy toward the Arabs in general and of a 20-year attitude toward the Great Jamahiriyah in particular. He said: You may remember that since the beginning of the U.S. officials' statements concerning what they call a factory for the production of chemical weapons in Libya, we have made absolutely clear in statements issued by the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and drawn attention to what the real motives behind these statements and threats are.

The brother secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison stressed that despite the fact that there is no law or international charter prohibiting the production of chemical weapons we have no intention of producing these weapons, and we have repeatedly stressed that the Al-Rabitah factory is a pharmaceutical factory.

He noted the premeditated nature of the U.S. aggression against the Great Jamahiriyah, pointing out that the shooting down of two Libyan reconnaissance aircraft by U.S. planes over international waters was a premeditated aggression aimed, in fact, at preparing for wider aggression against Libya in order to strike against economic and military installations.

He said that the U.S. threats and actions manifest a continuing attitude toward Libya and an unchanging policy against the Arabs. He noted the U.S. refusal to deliver planes for which Libya has already paid and he also pointed to the embargo against Libya buying commercial planes. He noted the constant provocations of the U.S. fleet opposite Libyan Arab shores and the imposition of an unsuccessful economic siege on Libya, and the prohibition on Libyan Arab students from studying sciences in the United States.

He added: The United States has used every means to fight us and to tighten the embargo on us. It does not pay regard to international law or to the sovereignty of states.

He said that the premeditated U.S. aggression against the Great Jamahiriyah and the threat to commit more extensive aggression are all part of U.S. behavior toward the Libyan Arab people. Raising the question of chemical weapons in Libya by the Americans seeks only to fabricate false pretexts for launching an aggression against the Arab nation.

The secretary of the Popular Committee for Foreign Liaison explained that the U.S. policy toward the Arabs in this connection is defined, clear, and declared; namely, it seeks to stop the Arabs from possessing, developing, or producing any weapon that poses even a limited danger to the Zionist enemy.

He concluded by drawing attention to the fact that the United States wants the Arabs to be an ongoing target for aggression and if the direct target is Libya the collective target is all Arabs.

'Arafat Addresses Committee

LD1201192889 Kuwait KUNA in English 1630 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] Tunis, Jan 12 (KUNA)—The Arab League's ministerial committee on extending support to the Palestinian uprising was briefed by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat here Thursday on political developments of the Palestinian cause and the progress of the heroic uprising in the occupied territories.

An Arab League's General Secretariat source said 'Arafat reviewed the general situation in the occupied Arab lands (?and) the harsh and coercive practices by Zionist occupation authorities against the Palestinian uprisers "who despite Israel's supressive and terroristic policies determined to go ahead with their heroic popular intifadah."

'Arafat acquainted the seven-man committee with elaborate report on means and ways that would boost the uprising and secure its continuity to achieve its goals, the source said.

In a statement following today's meeting, the committee asserted that the uprising, which entered its 14th month, needs further financial support and said Arab diplomatic efforts should be reactivated to maintain the current impetus of the Palestinian cause.

The committee expressed appreciation for non-aligned, Islamic, African and socialist countries for their support to the Palestinian people's rights and their uprising as well as the recognition they granted to the Palestinian independent state.

The statement also praised the stance of Pope John Paul II and the Vatican state toward the Palestinian people and their just cause, and urged the West European countries to develop their position into full recognition of the State of Palestine and to step efforts aimed at convening an international Mideast peace conference.

The committee asked the Arab League secretary general to draft a working-programme for the committee's future political drive in U.N. Security Council's permanent member states and West European as well as African and Latin American countries.

Lebanon Crisis Discussed

LD1201205889 Kuwait KUNA in English 1835 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] Tunis, Jan 12 (KUNA)—The Arab League Council started here Thursday evening the second extraordinary session to discuss the constitutional crisis in Lebanon.

Minister of state for foreign affairs of Somalia, who is the current chairman of the Arab League session Dr Mohamed Ali Hamud said (?in his speech) that the Lebanese crisis necessitates an Arab positive position to save that Arab country from further deterioration and division.

He added that the council is demanded to save Lebanon through Arab efforts that guarantee the unity and severeignty of Lebanon.

Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi emphasized in a similar speech that the Lebanese crisis is of grave consequences not only on that Arab country but on the security and unity of the Arab nation as a whole.

He called on all Lebanese to realize national reconciliation and to preserve coexistence among different sects.

United Arab Emirates Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid 'Abdallah said his country which follows up the developments of the constitutional crisis in Lebanon has called for holding of an extraordinary Arab summit conference to be devoted on Lebanon and how to overcome its problem that resulted form the failure to elect a new president after the term of former President Amin al- Jumayyil expired lst September.

He emphasized in his speech the need to adopt a unified stance to solve that crisis and that the Arab League Council adopts principles to deal with the problem in a positive and acceptable way to all Lebanese parties.

Committee on Lebanon Formed

JN1201204089 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Jan 89

[George Bashir dispatch from Tunis]

[Text] The Arab foreign ministers' closed session, which lasted some 2 hours, ended a few moments ago. The Arab ministers came out with resolutions, the most important being the formation of an Arab committee chaired by Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah and including Jordan, the UAE, Algeria, and Sudan as members. The Arab League secretary general will join this committee ex-officio.

The task of this committee is to contact all the Lebanese parties to become acquainted with their opinion and ideas on how to settle the Lebanese crisis, to carry out good offices with these parties to attain national accord, and to appeal to all the parties to render the committee's mission a success. The committee will submit its report and recommendations to the Arab League Council as soon as possible. The session will remain open for this purpose.

I have learned that a discussion took place in the closed meeting on draft resolutions and recommendations the Arab League Secretariat had prepared. The Iraqi delegation opposed them and it was supported by several Gulf and Maghreb countries. Therefore, the Arab ministers adopted only the above resolution.

Following the closed meeting, the members of the committee met to discuss whether they will leave for Lebanon or hold contacts with the Lebanese parties in Arab capitals.

More on Lebanon Committee

LD1201210989 Kuwait KUNA in English 1911 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] Tunis, Jan 12 (KUNA)—The Arab League Council Thursday decided to form an Arab committee to be headed by Kuwait's deputy premier and foreign minister, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, and to be assigned with contacting all parties concerned to the Lebanese crisis.

The decision was made by the extraordinary session devoted to discuss the Lebanese constitutional crisis which started here today.

The committee groups foreign ministers of Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Algeria, Tunisia and Sudan in addition to Shaykh Sabah and the Arab League secretary general.

The Council asked the committee to report to the Council and to present its recommendations on the results of its contacts with the Lebanese parties concerned as soon as possible. It decided that the session remains open until the committee completes its mission.

UAE State Minister's Address

JN1201204689 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] Tunis, 12 Jan (WAKH)—The UAE has asserted the need to devote time and effort for a serious collective discussion among the Arab countries to provide the appropriate atmosphere to forge a unified stand, which will provide a practical possibility—in method and essence—to treat the crisis Lebanon is experiencing and to rescue it and preserve its unity, Arabism, and the safety of its territory.

This came in the UAE's speech delivered this evening by Rashid 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, before the Arab League Council's extraordinary session to discuss the Lebanese crisis which began its proceedings in Tunis today.

In his speech, Rashid 'Abdallah pointed out that out of his deep concern for the safety and unity of Lebanon, His Highness UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan has called on Arab leaders to move immediately to help Lebanon escape the crisis from which it suffers.

'Abdallah said: In this regard, his highness has asserted the need to convene an immediate meeting among Arab leaders and all sides on the Lebaneese arena before it is too late in order to confront the dangers that threaten Lebanon's destiny and unity. He also called for helping Lebanese constitutional institutions to restore their unity and effectiveness by providing all necessary requirements to elect a president for the Republic and for helping Lebanon to achieve an Israeli withdrawal from its occupied territories, stop its intervention in its internal affairs, and repel its aggressions against its cities, villages, and citizens.

Rashid 'Abdallah called for work to achieve the method and bases that will allow Lebanon to achieve its needs and save it from the dilemma in which it lives in order to back and strengthen the Arab nation and countries in general.

Communique Denounces Downings

LD1201203489 Kuwait KUNA in English 1918 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] Tunis, Jan 12 (KUNA)—The Arab League Council Thursday denounced the downing of two Libyan planes, which were on a reconnaissance mission on January 4, by U.S. warplanes.

A communique issued by the council tonight following an extraordinary session on the U.S. aggression on Libya said the American attack constitutes an aggression on the safety and security of a member state of the Arab League and is a threat to the Arab security and the security of the Mediterranean.

The Council renewed its previous resolution adopted last December 26 which voiced full solidarity with Libya in face of any American aggression or threat.

It asked the U.S. to refrain from carrying out any action against Libya, pointing out that such an action would be of adverse reflection on Arab-U.S. relations.

The Council expressed satisfaction and appreciation for the readiness shown by Libya to solve its differences with the American Administration through negotiations and through the international organizations.

'Aziz on Arab League Session

JN1201210889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2000 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Excerpts] Tunis, 12 Jan (INA)—The Arab foreign ministers tonight decided to form a committee chaired by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir Al Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, to contact all Lebanese sides in order to know their opinions and proposals about the crisis and to exert good efforts to achieve national reconciliation in Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Following the conclusion of the extraordinary session, Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, told journalists that Iraq believes that after being examined by the Arab League Council, the results achieved by the committee should be presented to the Arab summit.

He said: We are convinced that the resolutions and procdures needed for the Lebanese crisis must be taken on the leaders' level because they will be hard decisions and will include responsibilities that must be shouldered by the leaders themselves.

Tariq 'Aziz also pointed out that during their meeting, the foreign ministers dealt with the Lebanese situation in general and that the contacts that will be conducted by the six-member committee formed by the foreign ministers aim to prevent any escalation of the Lebanese crisis which may cause further deterioration in the Lebanese situation.

Tariq 'Aziz said that the substantial measures to treat the crisis will be made after the report, which will be submitted by the committee about the outcome of its contacts.

He explained that the meeting did not touch on the details and causes of the crisis and entrusted this to a number of states to mark the Lebanese crisis as it hears it from the Lebanese sides themselves. The Arab League will then study the subject substantially.

In a later report, the INA correspondent in Tunis reported that the ministerial committee formed by the Arab League Council's extraordinary session began its first meeting immediately after the conclusion of the Council's meeting to discuss its working program and moves toward Lebanese sides.

Communique Supports Arms Ban

LD1201215289 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2045 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] Tunis, 12 Jan (SPA)—The Arab League Council emergency session affirmed that the final declaration of the Paris conference on banning chemical weapons, which ended yesterday, contained a number of orientations that strengthen the efforts of the international community in its aim to achieve total and comprehensive disarmament, particularly of weapons of mass destruction, within the framework of the United Nations, the framework and the instrument that enables the international community to achieve this.

In a communique issued in Tunis this evening, the Arab League Council affirmed the full support of the Arab states for these efforts. The communique adds that the maintenance of international peace and security lies not only in prohibiting the possession and use of chemical weapons, but also in banning the possession and use of weapons of mass destruction (?and) the other weapons in the world, particularly in the Middle East.

The council welcomed the final declaration of the Paris conference, especially Paragraph 6, which says that the participating states, while recalling the final document issued at the first extraordinary UN General Assembly session on disarmament in 1978, stresses the need for it to firmly continue its efforts aimed at realizing general and complete disarmament under effective international supervision, which protects the right of all states to peace and security.

The Council added that it sees in this paragraph in particular a reflection of the attitudes expressed by the Arab states during the deliberations of the conference, which affirmed the need to link the banning of nuclear weapons to the banning of chemical weapons in accordance with the priorities pointed out in the final document of the 1978 session on disarmament.

The statement affirmed that these attitudes spring from the affirmation of the Arab states' need to intensify international efforts so as to provide the best circumstances for realizing international and regional peace and security.

Council Concludes Proceedings

LD1301013989 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Excerpt] The Arab League Council concluded its proceedings within the context of an emergency session to discuss U.S. aggression against Libya and issues related to the Lebanese crisis.

With regard to the first issue, the council called on the United States to refrain from any action against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah with regard to the negative repercussions it could have on Arab-U.S. relations.

In its communique, the Council expressed its satisfaction and appreciation for the readiness expressed by the Jamahiriyah to solve its differences with the U.S. Adminstation through negotiations and through international bodies and organizations.

The Council condemned the downing of two Libyan aircraft by the U.S. Air Force, affirming that this attack constituted aggression against the security and safety of a member state and a threat to Arab security as well as the security of the Mediterranean Sea region.

The council decided to leave its session open and to entrust the Arab League secretary general with the follow-up of any developments that might occur on this issue so that the council may adopt the necessary measures to face the situation.

With regard to the Lebanese crisis, the Arab League Council decided to set up a ministerial council in order to make contacts with all political [word indistinct] parties in Lebanon with the aim of learning their views and suggestions on solving the Lebanese crisis. The ministerial council will undertake good offices with these parties in order to achieve national concord.

The committee, which is chaired by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, the Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, was set up. Its members are: Tunisia, Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Sudan, Algeria, and the Arab League secretary general.

The council called on all Lebanese parties to cooperate with the committee in order to ensure the success of the mission with which the committee was entrusted. The council gave the committee a directive to submit its report and recommendations to the council as soon as possible and decided to leave its session open for this purpose.

The committee held its first meeting in Tunis yesterday evening, immediately after the end of the emergency session on the Lebanese crisis. It has been learned that the committee set out the program of its first-stage moves, which will begin in a few days.

On the sidelines of its emergency meetings, the Arab League Council issued a communique on the results of the proceedings of Paris conference on banning chemical weapons. [passage omited]

Morocco's Filali Previews Maghreb Summit

LD1201140889 Rabat MAP in English 1245 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] Paris, Jan. 12 (MAP)—The upcoming second Maghreban summit, slated for this January in Morocco, will constitute a new step towards the realization of the Maghreban community, Moroccan Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Abdellatif Filali has stressed. In an interview published Wednesday by the London-based "AL-HAYAT" Arabic journal, Filali said "since the resumption of Moroccan-Algerian relations last May, emphasis has been laid on the need to construct the grand Arab Maghreb".

He said since the first Maghreban summit last June in Algiers sectorial commissions have been set up which have held a series of meetings in the various Maghreban capitals, reaching important results concerning the future.

Five sectorial commissions had been set up these are the "finance and customs" commission chaired by Morroco, the "economic" commission (Algeria), the "organization and structures" commission (Libya), the "social, human and security" commission (Tunisia) and the "culture, information and education" commission (Mauritania).

Filali added that recommendations have been prepared on economic and monetary integration, the stay and movement of citizens and other aspects of cooperation, all testifying to the common will to progressively edify the Maghreban community.

He said "we are close to the date for holding the second Maghreban summit this month and contacts are underway to fix the exact date of this summit which will be held in Morocco".

Concerning Morocco's stance over the U.S diplomatic offensive against Libya and the downing, by U.S fighters earlier this month, of two Libyan MiG's 23, Filali said "we have good and solid friendship relations with the U.S.A., but this does not mean we approve all the American Government's positions".

"On the contrary", he added. "in the said context, we have expressed our view-point that we do not accept any aggression against a small country with defensive means well below those of the United States".

He said "such act will only raise tension instead of settling problems, regardless of their gravity. If there are conflicts between Libya and the U.S., we believe they should be settled through dialogue. We are by the side of our Libyan brothers and we are solidary [as received] with them".

Asked about the recent meeting between King Hassan II and "Polisario" officials, Filali said "the Polisario has always wished such a contact, but it was not negotiations. We have listened to their viewpoint concerning the refrendum (in the Sahara), the cease-fire and the lists of those to take part in this referendum"

Questioned whether there has been some "flexibility" in the Polisario positions, the Moroccan minister said it was too early to answer this question "because this has been the first meeting, and in our opinion, the best thing in this context is to resume dialogue with our brothers in Algeria, mainly because there exists a rapprochement and a permanent dialogue, as well as direct contacts between His Majesty King Hassan II and His Excellency President Chadli Benjedid". Filali concluded saying "a new climate reigns on this question".

Palestinian Affairs

UN Grants Palestine Mission State Status

JN1201182689 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] The UN Security Council has approved granting state status to the Palestine mission, the former PLO mission, despite the objection of the United States and the abstention of Canada, the UK, and France.

The delegation of Palestine had made a request to this effect to the Security Council president to have an opportunity to join the debate on the American aggression against Libya. The council president decided to put the request to a formal vote after consultations among the council members failed to produce an agreement. The Security Council passed the request by 11 votes to 1—cast by the United States—with Canada, France, and the UK abstaining.

'Uprising' Committee Resolutions Reported

JN1201155689 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1430 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] Tunis, 12 Jan (INA)—The ministerial committee entrusted with supporting the Palestinian uprising has affirmed the importance of placing the occupied territories under international supervision to protect the citizens there and pave the way for the attainment of a just peaceful solution in accordance with UN resolutions.

At the conclusion of its closed meeting which was held here today, the committee reiterated the Arab commitment to the Algiers summit resolutions on supporting the uprising and stressed the need to follow up the implementation of these resolutions and also to provide the greatest possible material support to ensure the continuation of the uprising. The committee also emphasized the need to expand the media campaign to expose the crimes being perpetrated by the Zionist occupation in the occupied territories.

Within this framework, the committee adopted a host of resolutions including one according to which the Arab League secretary general was entrusted with drawing up a practical program for the committee's future political moves involving paying visits by all committee members including Palestine to the permanent member states of the UN Security Council, to other member states of the UN Security Council, and also to the European states.

The ministerial committee called upon the European states to develop their stands in the direction of extending recognition to the Palestinian state and to work to convene the international peace conference.

During the meeting, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat gave a detailed explanation of the political circumstances through which the Palestine question is going at present. He also spoke in detail on the continuation of the uprising being staged against the occupation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and also on the suffering being experienced by the Palestinian people because of their confrontation of the repressive practices by the occupation forces.

The committee formed by the Arab League Council meeting comprises Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Algeria, Syria, Palestine, and the Arab League secretary general.

PLO's Al-Surani Cited on Provisional Government

JN1301071089 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 11 Jan 89 p 17

[By Raja Talab]

[Text] Jamal al-Surani, secretary of the PLO Executive Committee and head of the legal committee entrusted with studying the issue of forming a provisional government, has affirmed that the committee finished its legal studies on the government and that it will submit its report on this issue to the PLO Executive Committee this month.

In an exclusive statement to AL-WATAN, Al-Surani said that the provisional government will be declared soon and that this declaration will not be delayed, especially if an Arab summit is held. However, he added that new political situations might delay the declaration of that government if the convening of the Arab summit is delayed.

Al-Surani pointed out that the legal committee has drawn up and formulated the outlines of the provisional constitution in order to confer a legal status on the form of the state and to also lay down the legal basis for the government declaration.

Al-Surani revealed to AL-WATAN the basic outlines of the provisional Palestinian constitution. He indicated that this constitution would be mainly and basically based on what was contained in the independence declaration. However, he said that the constitution further specifies the bodies of the Palestinian state which will include the Palestinian government, the parliament, the State Council [majlis siyadah], and the judiciary.

Al-Surani went on to say that the constitution will also spell out the general rights of the Palestinian citizen and that it will also affirm political democracy and the multi-party system. He said that the constitution will also tackle the laws governing the formation of the parliamentary government and that what was contained in the independence declaration as regards the general form of the state will be the backbone of the guiding principles in that constitution.

Al-Surani indicated that the provisional government will consist of a number of ministries that will shoulder their responsibilities toward their people. He did not specify the number of these ministries. However, he affirmed

that the important issue does not concern the number of these ministries inasmuch as it concerns the need to produce a serious-minded government that can shoulder its responsibilities toward its people and before the world.

Al-Surani declined to specify the number of the portfolios that will be allocated for the occupied territories. However, he said that the number of these portfolios will be such that the government's work will not be disrupted if Israel were to prevent Palestinian figures living under occupation from participating in that government.

Al-Surani affirmed that the names those who will be assigned ministerial portfolios for the occupied territories will be announced once this government is launched. He stressed that the main criteria for selecting Palestinians who will participate in the government will be based on the need to meet the technical, national, and political aspects and considerations to render this government as one representing the entire Palestinian people.

The PLO Executive Committee secretary indicated that the PLO Central Council, acting upon a recommendation to be made by the Executive Committee, will elect a prime minister for the Palestinian government.

Al-Surani also pointed out that the provisional constitution will provide the legal basis for the formation of a provisional state council which will perform the tasks and missions of the president of the independent Palestinian state. He pointed out that this issue is still under discussion.

As for the relationship between the PLO and the provisional government, Al-Surani said that delineating the features of this relationship is an internal issue that will be dealt with by the Palestinian leadership in a manner that precludes any conflict between the existence of the PLO and that of the Palestinian government.

Al-Surani indicated that the PLO will have its special role and that the government will be the political facade of the Palestinian people.

'Arafat on Greek Nonrecognition of Palestine

LD1201192389 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] Before leaving Athens, brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] declared at a press conference that the creation of the state of Palestine is only a stone's throw away. Brother Abu 'Ammar also indicated that he has no problem with Greece which, unlike other European states, has not recognized the state of Palestine, and said in this respect: "The Greek Government is free to choose the time it deems suitable to recognize the Palestinian state.

Egypt

Further on Visit of Austrian Chancellor

Mubarak, Vranitzky News Conference

NC1201114789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1050 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jan (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has urged Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to respond to the voice of peace. He said: I cannot go to Israel after Shamir has declared that he will not make any concessions.

President Mubarak said this during a news conference he held with Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky following their 90-minute meeting today.

Asked whether the international peace conference is the only way to solve the Middle East conflict and whether this conference could be held this year, President Mubarak said: I can say that the international conference is the solution that has been accepted by all the states in the world except the Israelis. I wonder why they do not accept it. The international conference will be convened with the participation of the five permanent Security Council members and the parties concerned in the region—Jordan, Palestine, Syria, Egypt, and Israel. He indicated that the international conference will indirectly lead to negotiations [sayu'addi bitariqah ghayr mubasharah lilmufawadat].

President Mubarak added: I wonder why Shamir does not accept this, particularly as former Israeli Prime Minister Peres agreed on the convening of the international conference and declared this in Alexandria.

Asked whether Israel could be convinced to change its viewpoint, President Mubarak said: I believe all world public opinion approves of the convening of the international conference, and I urge Shamir to respond to the voice of peace for which world public opinion calls.

President Mubarak expressed his happiness at meeting the Austrian chancellor in Egypt. He said: Egypt and Austria enjoy very good relations. We exchanged views on several problems regarding the Middle East. We agreed to continue these consultations and brief each other on developments, especially Middle East developments.

Mubarak added: Our viewpoints are almost identical on regional and international problems. I again welcome the Austrian chancellor and hope to see him periodically. I will do my best to visit Vienna shortly to exchange views and meet with our friends.

Answering a question on his visit to Israel, President Mubarak said: I have said repeatedly and I sent a letter to Shamir saying that if my visit to Israel will lead to good progress on the Middle East problem, I am ready to undertake it.

Mubarak added that U.S. President-elect George Bush had said the same thing regarding a visit to the region. Bush is ready to fly to the Middle East if this brings progress. However, this move requires some preparation.

President Mubarak said: I cannot go to Israel, especially after Shamir has declared that he does not make territorial concessions, does not accept the international peace conference, and does not give something in return or as a price for my visit to Israel. I will not go there to have tea or coffee or have a nice time. Something tangible regarding the Middle East crisis must be achieved if I visit Israel or any other country.

Asked about the prospects for peace in the Middle East and whether he is optimistic, President Mubarak said: I am optimistic. This is my habit. If hope is lost, there is no meaning for life. Hope is the only thing that keeps us going in this world.

Answering a question on his forthcoming visit to the United States and the points he will discuss with the new U.S. President, President Mubarak noted that this visit will take place according to a set program. He said: I know President-elect George Bush from when he was U.S. vice president. I used to exchange views with him on Middle East problems. We understand each other well.

President Mubarak said: The main topic I will discuss with Bush will be the Middle East problem, in addition to other regional problems.

The Austrian chancellor then answered a question on his talks with President Mubarak and his assessment of the situation in the Middle East and the role Austria could play in giving impetus to peace in the region and helping the Palestinians. He said there is great similarity in Egypt's and Austria's positions. Both countries, he said, have made tangible contributions to the peacemaking process and the preservation of peace in various parts of the world. He added: If you look at Egypt, you will find a country that has truly served this serious objective in the Middle East in the past few years.

As for Austria, he said, I find the following points quite a striking coincidence. First, the final documents of the Conference on European Security will be signed within the coming days and I find in this a remarkable similarity in the role of the two countries. [sentence as received] Second, with respect to the Middle East, I believe that the most important development that has occurred recently in the Middle East is the declaration by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat at the UN Headquarters in Geneva and the approval of this declaration by several European countries.

I believe that the first and most important contribution European countries can make to the peacemaking process in the region is to support the PLO's viewpoint in all procedures, thus ensuring one of the prerequisites for the peacemaking process. Third, we Europeans, including Austrians, must save all our persuasive abilities to convince our Israeli partners that the international conference constitutes an important step toward attaining peace in this important part of the world. Fourth, this matter should be of utmost importance to Europe, because instability in the Middle East could affect other parts of the world, and the closest region to the Middle East is Europe.

Asked about Europe and Austria's expectations for the new U.S. Administration regarding the Middle East and the world in general now that 20 January is approaching, the Austrian chancellor said: I believe the two superpowers have made considerable progress during President Reagan's second term. From the Bush administration, I believe it would be fair enough to expect that the world will see further efforts toward disarmament and stability. As for the Middle East, the Austrian chancellor said that Americans played a tangible role in the last weeks and months, expressing the hope that the United States will continue this role.

Following the news conference, Austrian journalists rallied around President Mubarak and conducted a quick dialogue with him.

A journalist asked him about the phenomenon of extremism in Egypt. The president said: If we did not have democracy and noble values, no one outside Egypt would have heard about the phenomenon of extremism in Egypt. Mubarak continued: It is not a widespread phenomenon, and incidents are minor.

The journalist said: We understand that extremism has no chance in Egypt because the Egyptian character is not extremist. President Mubarak said: You know the correct answer.

Another journalist then asked Mubarak if the Austrian chancellor had extended an invitation to him to visit Austria. Mubarak said: I do not need an invitation to stop over in Vienna whenever I have time. The journalist asked him: When will you stop over? He answered: I cannot determine the agenda for my European tour now.

Signs Cooperation Accord

NC1201190489 Cairo MENA in English 1848 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, Jan. 12 (MENA)—Egypt and Austria today signed a number of agreements covering bilateral cooperation in the manufacturing of machines, industrial units, water processing equipment, electronic telephone exchanges, fodder mills and iron and steel.

The signing ceremony was attended by Minister of Industry Muhammad 'Abd al-Wahhab and visiting Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky, as well as a number of other senior Egyptian officials. In a speech at the signing ceremony, the minister said that the volume of trade exchange between Egypt and Austria amounted to 100 million dollars and pointed out that the volume of Egyptian non-traditional exports to Austria will grow in the coming stage.

Mubarak Dinner Speech

NC1201212889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1943 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Excerpts] Cairo, 12 Jan (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and his wife hosted a banquet this evening in honor of Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky and his wife, and the accompanying delegation. During the banquet, President Mubarak made a speech in which he welcomed the Austrian Chancellor, his wife, and the accompanying delegation. [passage omitted]

Following is the text of President Mubarak's dinner address:

Mr Chancellor, Mrs Vranitzky, dear guests: We cordially and affectionately welcome you to Egyptian soil as sincere friends and representatives of a friendly country and a great people. Your country and people have made a tangible contribution to the development of civilization and modernity and to the establishment of relations between nations and peoples, on the basis of cooperation and equality in rights and duties and belief in the need for a unified international family in the face of the great challenges, regardless of differences in geographical locations and political and economic systems, and despite the superficial contradictions of interests and objectives.

It is no coincidence that our two countries have similar stands on important regional and international issues. These stands and orientations are the product of rich historical experience and unique geographical locations which place our countries at the center of events and make them meeting points for continents and cultures. It was natural for both of them to play a major role in maintaining peace and security, bringing peoples closer, rejecting the use of force in settling disputes, fighting exploitation and hegemony, limiting the threats of destructive wars, and curbing the spread of destructive weapons.

Therefore, we have welcomed recent developments at the international level, particularly the enhancement of conciliation and understanding between the superpowers, success in taking steps in the field of disarmament and curbing the arms race, and considerable movement toward resolving the regional problems which have threatened peace and security in several parts of the world in recent decades.

Accordingly, we appreciate the important role which Austria is playing at the CSCE currently holding its third follow-up session. We also support the efforts Austria is making to bring together neutral and nonalignged countries in the European continent within the framework of European security and cooperation, to enable them to perform an effective role in strengthening positive and consltructive trends at the international level.

Believing in the same principles and objectives, Egypt is playing a major role in strengthening security and stability in the Middle East region, establishing peace, and advocating the peaceful settlement of disputes, the use of dialogue and negotiations instead of armed struggle and bloodshed, and the allocation of the region's huge human and natural resources to development and progress.

On this basis, Egypt has undertaken to employ every available method to seek a comprehensive and peaceful settlement for the Arab-Israeli dispute. Such a settlement should entail solving the Palestinian issue in a manner which guarantees the legitimate rights and interests of all the parties and allows all to look forward to the future with its wide horizons, and get rid of the past, with all its pitfalls, vestiges, and grudges.

We have welcomed the courageous move in the direction of peace recently made by the PLO. It is a profound and substantial move which should obtain the sincere support of all peace-loving powers and a suitable response from the Israeli Government, without hesitation or procrastination. None of us can afford to squander the existing historic opportunity to uproot the conflict and start a new era of peace and coexistence among the region's various countries. In this connection, we are looking forward to an active role by all European countries, because they are well aware of the close relationship between peace and security in the Middle East and prosperity and stability in the European continent. This makes it incumbent on all European countries to exert serious efforts to influence the parties concerned, in order to secure a consensus on convening an international peace conference and begin negotiations, before feelings of despair and depression get the better of hope.

Austria has consistently played a positive and constructive role, based on recognition of the Palestinian people's national rights as a prerequisite for the achievement of the required balance between the interests of this fraternal people and Israel's right to exist and live in peace with the other peoples of the region. Your country has also sought at every stage to encourage dialogue betyween the two parties as a way of resuming the peace process. At the same time, Austria has called for human rights in the occupied Arab territory to be respected. This is only natural in view of your special interest in urging respect for human rights everywhere.

We are also aware of your interest in the Lebanese issue. We know that you agree with us in our endeavors to enable the noble Lebanese people to overcome existing problems. We hope that they will reach an acceptable formula to settle the issue, free from external pressure and influences, which are striking at the Lebanese people's sovereignty over their land, portending the consolidation of partition, and threatening the country's present and future.

Together we are watching the progress of peace efforts in the Gulf region. We reject the attempts aimed at obstructing the peace process. The interests of all peoples of the world require an acceleration of efforts to turn the cease-fire, which was achieved after 8 years of destruction and devastation, into a comprehensive peace, to ensure that the war will not break out again and that differences will be settled through peaceful means.

Dear friend: Bilateral ties between our two countries are a bright example for creative cooperation among nations and peoples. The cooperation we have established in the various stages is built on a strong foundation of common interests and a true desire to achieve reciprocal benefits, free from pressure and monopoly. This has led to the expansion of the scope of cooperation to all economic, political, and cultural spheres.

The talks we held this morning demonstrated that both parties are eager to strengthen and deepen this cooperation further, in every way. We are confident that your visit will make a considerable contribution to the attainment of this goal. We believe that there are still vistas for cooperation. Egypt is currently working very hard to achieve comprehensive economic and social development based on increasing agricultural and industrial production, the introduction of the most modern technological methods in production and services, and the promotion of export potential for Egyptian producers in various sectors. These fields will provide may opportunities for increasing Egyptian-Austrian cooperation, to the benefit of both countries.

Dear friend: We look with admiration at your success in achieving record economic growth in your country last year while maintaining social achievements. We are seeking to achieve similar goals in Egypt, which requires that we view development and economic reform from a comprehensive perspective not restricted by narrow considerations and rigid theoretical concepts.

In this connection, we continue to call on the international community to reach a fair formula to overcome the debt problem from which all developing countries, particularly the fraternal African countries, are suffering. In addition, the African countries are facing fierce challenges that no other countries in the modern age have encountered. Suffice it to recall that the total debts of the developing countries may total $1,300 million at the beginning of this year. The continuing failure to resolve this grinding problem will lead to the gravest consequences for both developing and advanced countries.

Friends: This visit has enabled us to get to know chancellor Vranitzky and we look forward for more meetings and contacts in the future. Allow me to ask you to stand up to greet Chancellor Vranitzky, his wife, all our dear guests and all sons of the dear Austrian people, and to salute the strong ties between the two peoples and countries. May God's peace and mercy be upon you.

Chancellor's Response

NC1301065989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2050 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Excerpts] Cairo, 12 Jan (MENA)—Replying to President Mubarak's dinner speech tonight, Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky expressed thanks for the warm hospitality accorded him, his wife, and his accompanying delegation. [passage omitted]

In his speech, Vranitzky noted the new forms of international cooperation and coexistence in the contemporary world. He stressed that Egypt and Austria can contribute to the new trends, pointing out in this respect Egypt's potential to play an effective role. He said that Egypt has close bonds with the Arab world, the African Continent, and, as a Mediterranean country, with Europe. Vranitzky noted that Austria also has strong and long-standing relations with the European countries both in Eastern and Western Europe.

Egypt and Austria, he pointed out, respect peaceful coexistence and cooperation, and not the policy of confrontation. This has led to close cooperation between the two countries in the international arena, particularly in the United Nations. Both countries give great attention to the international body's role in resolving existing problems. He stressed that Austria and Egypt are convinced of the need to establish a stable international system and ensure the sovereignty of international law.

Vranitzky went on to say that we are following with (?interest) the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan and of the Cuban forces from Angola, the latter as a step toward Namibia's independence. He pointed out that the Middle East is witnessing new developments with regard to the Middle East issue and the Palestinian people's problem. He expressed his belief that the current trend toward a peaceful settlement in the region is not difficult to achieve. [passage omitted]

Vranitzky stressed that great scope exists to expand bilateral talks in the political and economic fields in view of the strong and constructive relations between Egypt and Austria. He asserted that his talks in Cairo will boost and deepen bilateral ties, particularly in the fields of modern science, media, exchange of information, environmental protection, and futuristic science. He said that these domains constitute the economic and intellectual forces of the future, adding that both countries can participate in these areas.

Vranitzky said that our present generation has lived through continual and fast political changes toward a better world, noting the nuclear arms limitation agreement, which he described as the cornerstone toward real disarmament. He pointed out that the societies in Eastern Europe have begun to exhibit an openness and to pursue reforms characterized by increasing participation and cooperation with the other countries of the world. He noted that Western Europe is currently witnessing closer unity through the EEC domestic program. The Austrian chancellor said that other parts of the world are currently witnessing relaxation and the desire to seek peaceful solutions to long-standing disputes. [passage omitted]

Vranitzky (?praised) Egypt's policy to resolve the Middle East problem, which he said is in line with the Palestinian position. He noted that Egypt's policy over the past few years has been based on two principles: first, the need to establish a just peace and to guarantee the rights of the countries of the region, including Israel, to live within secure borders and, second, the need to guarantee the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and legitimate aspirations. The Austrian chancellor expressed his belief that these principles are reflected clearly in the courageous and far-reaching resolutions adopted by the PNC at its latest meeting in Algiers and in the speech Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat gave before the UN General Assembly in Geneva.

Vranitzky expressed his hope that the current dialogue between the United States and the PLO will provide an opportunity toward convening an international peace conference to end the bitter and serious confrontation in the region. Concluding his speech, the Austrian chancellor expressed his thanks for the hospitality accorded him in Egypt. He also stressed his appreciation for the valuable views he had heard in Cairo. Vranitzky wished President Mubarak continued good health and Egypt continued peace and prosperity. He called for furthering the friendly ties between the two countries and peoples in a stable and peaceful world.

Al-Baz Makes Proposals on Palestinian Government

JN1301084289 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 11 Jan 89 pp 1, 19

[Text] Cairo—Informed political sources in Cairo told AL-ITTIHAD that Dr Usamah al-Baz, chief of the Egyptian president's office for political affairs, has proposed to the Palestinian delegation currently visiting Cairo under Mahmud 'Abbas—Abu Mazin—to include within the provisional Palestinian government some Palestinian personalities with U.S. nationality. The sources said that Egypt is of the view that such personalities will have a great influence on U.S. public opinion and officials. Egypt also recommended that the provisional Palestinian government should also include some prominent Palestinian leaders from the occupied territory.

The sources said that during the talks held by the Palestinian delegation, it was agreed that such a government will not be declared until all of the necessary legal studies, in which Jordan, Egypt, and the PLO are participating, are completed.

Seminar on Mideast Peace Issues Communique

NC1201164289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1448 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 12 Jan (MENA)—The seminar on the future of peace in the Middle East concluded in Cairo today. Participants in the seminar asserted that the Palestinian uprising constituted one of the most important events of 1988 and that its continuation is proof of the failure of the Israeli approach in dealing with the new realities brought about by recent Arab and Palestinian developments.

This was announced in a final communique issued by the conferees after a 3-day session. Participants in the seminar included Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs; a number of political figures; and experts in Middle East affairs from Egypt, Europe, the United States, and the Soviet Union.

The communique points out that the PLO's recognition of UN Resolutions 242 and 338 has nullified all the excuses used by the United States and Israel to prevent PLO participation in peace talks. It emphasizes the need to seize the favorable historical opportunity to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East and to convene an international peace conference. In this regard, the communique notes the need to step up Arab and European efforts to convene an international conference.

Ahmad Hamrush, chairman of the Egyptian Committee for Afro-Asian solidarity, which organized the seminar with the Foreign Ministry's cooperation, stated that the committee is in the course of organizing a European-Arab dialogue in Cairo this year to attract further world support for the convocation of an international conference on peace in the Middle East. [passage omitted]

Commentary on Shamir's Position on Mideast

NC1201155189 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Muhammad Sharaf commentary: "An Analysis of Yitzhaq Shamir's Positon on UN Participation in Settling the Middle East Issue"]

[Text] It is very interesting to learn, through news agency reports, that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has declared his readiness to hold direct negotiations with Arab states under UN supervision, provided that the international organization does not interfere in the essence of the talks. According to reports, Shamir told the European parliamentary delegation that such negotiations could be initiated under the supervision of the United Nations or the superpowers.

Observers note that this is the first time that Shamir has expressed acceptance of UN supervision of the talks, which he had always insisted should take place directly with Arab states. An adviser to Shamir further clarifies the matter, saying that the Israeli prime minister's statement is in line with his previous acceptance of a joint U.S.-Soviet role in initiating the talks and his declaration that the major powers can hold a meeting or gathering to be attended by the presidents of the United States and the Soviet Union, in addition to the parties to the dispute. The U.S. and Soviet leaders, the adviser adds, could later invite the leaders of the countries concerned with the dispute to begin direct negotiations.

These remarks need no further explanation or comment. It is obvious that Shamir wants supervision of the talks by the United Nations or the superpowers to be merely a matter of form. He takes the view that they should play no positive role in these talks and that the parties concerned should be left alone to agree on whatever they want.

If we look at things in their proper perspective, we will find that the Israeli prime minister is trying to persist in his original rejection of an international conference on peace in the Middle East. In the meantime, he is trying to circumvent the world consensus on an international conference through ensuring that UN or superpower participation remains only a matter of form.

The attitude of the Israeli prime minister is not very different from the U.S. position on the international conference, which emphasizes that the conference should be a formality which would have no bearing on negotiations among the parties concerned. This is clearly at variance with the general concept of an international peace conference. According to this general concept, the convocation of the conference under UN supervision, and with the participation of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, would mean that international legitimacy would truly be accorded to the settlement of the Palestinian problem and the Middle East crisis in a comprehensive manner. It is known that international legitimacy provides for the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and to the establishment of a state on their own soil. It also outlaws the occupation or annexation of land by force. In short it requires Israel to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories to pre-1967 lines and provides for the Palestinian people to gain their legitimate rights.

Another point which Shamir cannot overlook is the fact that the Palestinians can never give up any of their rights. Moreover, the Arab states can never give up any of their rights, or the Palestinians' rights, either during

the direct negotiations which the Israeli prime minister is demanding, or at the international peace conference which the entire world is demanding.

Editorial on Shamir's Recent Peace Initiative

JN1301110389 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 11 Jan 89 p 7

[Editorial: "A Conspiratorial Initiative!"]

[Text] Israel has recently prepared world public opinion for what it describes as a new peace initiative. It has also surrounded this initiative with lengthy propagandistic preambles, depicting it as a genuine move toward peace resulting from painstaking efforts to close Israeli ranks, which was recently represented by the new coalition government that enjoys a large parliamentary majority. Israel also depicts this initiative as a "positive" reaction to developments in the international arena regarding support for the new peace approaches of the Palestine question.

Shamir and his aides had gradually announced the contents of this initiative in a way indicating that they presented it as the last thing in their quiver, awaiting positive replies by the international community prior to or following its official presentation to Washington in the next few weeks. It has been ascertained that this initiative is one of the aspects of the "diplomatic offensive" launched by the Israeli Government following its formation in order to face, ruin, and remove the effects of the PLO's recent gains.

The first move to brief U.S. officials on the initiative was made in the meeting held between Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz on the sidelines of the Paris international conference on banning chemical weapons. As Arens has said, the initiative can be summed up in three points: holding elections in the occupied territories without the PLO's participation and allowing any persons supporting the PLO to "compete" for the mayoralty of municipalities; establishing limited self-rule in steps which have not yet been declared; and finally—and apart from the Palestinian party—holding direct negotiations with the Arab states based on the Camp David accords with Israeli readiness to amend these accords!

Hence, the initiative may indeed appear as an "integrated" plan to solve Middle East issues according to a "purely" Israeli course. As far as the Palestinian party is concerned, the alleged elections will be held under an occupation which has reached historic levels in repressive measures! Still, these are supposed to be "free" elections in which non-PLO candidates will compete for municipal posts even if they actually support the PLO! This remark is meant to add a false tinge of legitimacy to elections which will be held under coercion while claiming they will be free elections. This is so despite the fact that the people engaged in the uprising stressed in their statements that all these claims are false and that any procedure or even any poltical presence will be null and void under occupation. However, and as a reply to this scheme, the PLO has stressed the need for Israeli withdrawal and for placing the occupied territories under temporary international supervision.

Holding negotiations as part of the Camp David accords—whether the existing or amended accords—will be similar to plowing the sea after these accords have exhausted their objectives and after they have been superseded by regional and world events and approaches toward an international conference for peace.

U.S. Congressional Delegation Arrives for Visit

Received by Mubarak

NC1201134589 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received a U.S. congressional delegation in the presidential office in Heliopolis at noon today along with Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary in the Foreign Ministry and director of the president's office for political affairs, and U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Frank Wisner.

The congressional delegation arrived in Cairo this morning as part of a tour of the Middle East region, which included Israel, Syria, and Jordan.

Meets With Abu Ghazalah

NC1201190789 Cairo MENA in English 1845 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, Jan 12 (MENA)—Deputy Premier and Minister of Defence and Military Production Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah received today a delegation of members of the U.S. House of Representatives, currently visiting here. The meeting dealt with ways of boosting cooperation between Egypt and the United States.

He also had a meeting with a visiting delegation of U.S. senators. Talks were focused on the situation in the Middle East and bilateral cooperation, with emphasis on the military domain.

Al-Majid Interviewed on Chemical Weapons, Peace

PM1201103689 Paris LE FIGARO in French 9 Jan 89 p 3

[Interview with Foreign Minister Ahmad 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid by correspondents Charles Lambroschini and Claude Lorieux in Paris; date not given]

[Text] [Correspondent] In your speech to the Paris conference you stressed the link between chemical and nuclear weapons. Your Arab colleagues did likewise. In short, the Arabs will abandon chemical weapons—the

poor man's nuclear bomb—if the Israelis abandon nuclear weapons. Are you not afraid that your insistence might make the conference fail?

['Abd al-Majid] We do not want to cause problems for the conference. As soon as the meeting started, I told our French friends how much Egypt wants this meeting to succeed. It is a very important conference and we are determined to do all we can to ensure its success. But we must also take account of the importance of this link which has been raised by several delegations. I cited President Mitterrand's speech. I think that this point is very clear and even if we refer to it, I do not think it can undermine the conference or cause problems. It is a clarification which is important and necessary. Moreover, I made it quite clear in my speech that the main thing is to concentrate on regional problems. A peaceful solution to the Near East dispute would relegate the arms problem, particularly chemical weapons, to a secondary level. We do not want an arms race which would be destructive to all. So, what I want to emphasize is that we must find a just and lasting solution to the Middle East problem.

[Correspondent] Do you agree with the Americans? Do you think that Al-Qadhdhafi has really turned the Al-Rabitah chemicals factory into a center for producing chemical weapons?

['Abd al-Majid] I have no idea about this factory business.

[Correspondent] Do the Israelis have nuclear weapons?

['Abd al-Majid] I do not know, I am not a military expert. My position is based on principles. If we launch an arms race in the region, it will be very serious for everybody. There will no longer be any limit to the build-up of military equipment....

[Correspondent] In this connection, it is no longer just the Israeli-Palestinian problem which must be settled. The Saudis have Chinese missiles which could one day be armed with chemical warheads, the Iraqis and Iranians are in the same position, and Egypt has its own missiles....

['Abd al-Majid] This is precisely why we must go beyond the military problem alone and solve the political problem. It is by solving this second problem that we can allay tensions and calm fears. Each state in the region must be given the feeling that it is no longer in danger.

[Correspondent] But the arms race already exists. All the countries in the region are modernizing their arsenals in succession.

['Abd al-Majid] You cannot prevent a country from equipping itself with the latest weapons. You must therefore create conditions which enable you to say to these countries: "Why do you want weapons? Nobody is threatening you, you will be able to live in peace in this region."

Continuing the Process

[Correspondent] You have just met with Moshe Arens, the new Israeli foreign minister, in Paris. Did he tell you anything about the peace plan which, according to Prime Minister Shamir, will shortly be announced.

['Abd al-Majid] We discussed bilateral questions and the peace process. Each side explained its viewpoint on this process. The important thing is to continue this process and not to close the door to change. With this in mind, we may meet again or our experts will meet to continue discussions in this sphere.

[Correspondent] Did you feel there were any differences compared with your talks with former minister Shimon Peres?

['Abd al-Majid] I have also had very useful and interesting negotiations with Mr Peres. I am happy to have had these very complete talks with Mr Arens. In all events, Paris is playing a very important role as regards rapprochement.

[Correspondent] In an interview with LE FIGARO, Moshe Arens refused to draw a distinction between terrorism and the intifadah. In his view, the people throwing stones or Molotov cocktails on the West Bank are terrorists in the same way as the perpetrators of the Pan Am outrage. Yasir 'Arafat drew a distinction between them. What is your own view on this subject?

['Abd al-Majid] This point was not discussed during my conversation with Mr Arens. And I say, so much the better. In our view, the intifadah is a Palestinian people's movement and we have always hoped that it will lead to a political solution. That is what President Mubarak stressed from the start of this revolt in December 1987 and in February 1988, during a visit to the United States, that he advocated U.S.-Palestinian dialogue. This has now been achieved, there is dialogue between the Palestinians and the United States. The Israelis certainly stand to gain from ending this state of violence. So do the Palestinians. But it is not by waving a magic wand that we can stop all that. We must open negotiations.

[Correspondent] Are you not afraid that the problem will become bogged down once again between the Israelis, who reject any talks with the PLO, and the Palestinian extremists who are threatening to sabotage 'Arafat's conciliation efforts?

['Abd al-Majid] There is always a danger, always a risk. Extremists of all kinds must be neutralized. Egypt cannot work with the extremists. My country is playing a role in bringing about rapprochement and moderation. I think that in this respect the results have been satisfying for our Palestinian brothers and for the peace process.

[Correspondent] Now that the PLO has agreed to recognize Israel, Syria seems to be particularly isolated in the Arab world. Do you not think that there is a risk of this situation being perpetuated, because the Syrians have often shown that they are capable of violent reactions?

['Abd al-Majid] Syria is an important country in the region. We must have dialogue with Damascus. But the Syrians must also realize that it is in their interest to start a process of dialogue, especially to solve the Lebanese problem. Egypt has nothing against Damascus. Syria is a fraternal country. But we have different views on important political problems. We must therefore encourage the Arab countries to start a general dialogue.

Sidqi Says No Date Set for IMF, World Bank Talks

NC1201140689 Cairo MENA in English 1345 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, Jan 12 (MENA)—No date has been fixed for a visit by a joint delegation of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank to Egypt, according to Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi.

The prime minister was replying to reporters' questions today. "A delegation will come when agreement is reached on a date for the visit," he said.

Dr Sidqi pointed out that no representative of the IMF or the World Bank visited Egypt and no talks were conducted recently.

Minister on Power Plant Cooperation With USSR

NC1201172489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1627 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Excerpts] Aswan, 12 Jan (MENA)—Eng Mahir Abazah, minister of electricity and energy, has declared that the coming stage will witness close cooperation between Egypt and the Soviet Union in the field of electricity and energy. He said that the two countries will discuss the possibility of a Soviet contribution to the establishment of a 900-megawatt hydroelectric plant in the Jabal al-Jalalah area, south of Suez, and another 300-megawatt thermal plant in 'Uyun Musa in Sinai.

This was announced at a press conference held today in the information center in Aswan to mark the passage of 30 years since Egypt and USSR signed the High Dam agreement. The conference was attended by Anatoliy Mayorets, Soviet minister of power and electrification; Major General Qadri 'Uthman, Aswan governor; the Soviet ambassador in Cairo; Eng Ahmad Mazin, under secretary at the Ministry of Works and Water Resources; and Eng Ahmad Hasanayn, chairman of the Higher Authority of the High Dam and Aswan Reservoir. [passage omitted]

The Soviet minister asserted that the High Dam power plant, which was built by Soviet and Egyptian experts, is designed to withstand any earth tremor registering up to 12 on the richter scale. He added that the recent earthquake in Armenia, which registered 12 [as received] on the Richter scale, did not affect hydroelectric plants, which were back in operation within 12 hours of the earthquake. He noted that the High Dam is similar in design to these plants.

Touching on Egyptian-Soviet cooperation in the peaceful application of nuclear power, the Soviet minister reiterated his country's willingness to cooperate with Egypt in this field and to train Egyptian technicians. [passage omitted]

UAE Economy Minister Arrives in Cairo 12 Jan

NC1201153689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1505 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jan (MENA)—Sayf ibn 'Ali al-Jarawan, UAE minister of economy and trade, arrived in Cairo this afternoon on a visit expected to last several days.

During the visit, Minister al-Jarawan will participate in the second round of the Arab-Soviet talks organized by the Egyptian Committee for Afro-Asian Solidarity. The talks are due to start on 14 January.

Military Industry Head on Deals, Production

JN1301104789 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 11 Jan 89 pp 1, 11

[By Jamal Kamal]

[Text] Lieutenant General Ibrahim al-'Urabi, chairman of the Arab Industrialization Organization, has announced that the organization has contracted with Sudan and Zaire, through the ministry of defense, to supply them with the Egyptian armored vehicle "Fahd". He said that this vehicle passed field tests conducted recently in Al-Shariqah and Dubayy in the UAE.

He added that the organization recently contracted with the Egyptian defense ministry to manufacture a new deal on the medium training aircraft "Tocano" [name as published] to be delivered to other Arab countries after Iraq obtained a full package of these aircrafts.

In the second Arab strategic conference yesterday, Al-'Urabi said that Egypt presented more than one proposal to the Arab countries to contribute to the capital of the organization so that it can continue its activity. These proposals are being studied to promote cooperation among these countries in running the organization. He pointed out that at present, Egypt is neither intervening

in running the organization's affairs nor taking its share in its capital. However, it is determined to continue the organization's growth despite all difficulties.

Al-'Urabi stressed that the organization can meet a great part of the need by Arab countries for training aircraft, helicopters, various types of missiles, electronics, and plane cockpits ['umrat], but it is not operating fully as it needs financing. The organization's debts to national banks amount to $240 million, while it has $710 million frozen in foreign banks as a result of the the Arab countries' withdrawal from the organization since 1979.

Lt Gen al-'Urabi said the establishment of an Arab military industry is now a pressing need, but it should be based on a careful plan that defines priorities and the general Arab industrial base, and achieves coordination among the Arab countries. He said that we should not establish Arab arms industry for national support only but for specific aims.

He reviewed the activities of the Arab Industrialization Organization, pointing out that it succeeded in producing the Saqr-80 surface-to-surface missile, which is now being developed. Several European countries offered Egypt participation in the production of a third generation of anti-tank missiles. The size of the organization's contracts with France, Canada, and the United States to supply international firms with some aircraft and missile parts amounted to $110 million, he said.

He said the organization can manufacture an Arab satellite. This is not the problem, he said, as all countries can currently hire satellites. The problem lies with missiles. The organization can manufacture a long-range missile in 3 months provided that financing and resources are made available.

Gas Production To Be 'Doubled' in 3 Years

JN1301085289 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 11 Jan 89 p 1

[By Faruq 'Abd al-'Aziz]

[Text] 'Abd al-Hadi Qandil, minister of petroleum and mineral resources, has stressed that our natural gas production will be doubled in 3 years to reach 1.4 billion cubic feet compared to the current 700 million.

The increase, he said, will be achieved after developing Badr al-Din and Abu Sannan fields in the western desert, and Al-Timsah, Bur Fu'ad, and Al-Qar'ah [placename as published] fields in northern Al-Dilta and northern Abu Qir.

He said that the next stage will witness emphasis on using natural gas as a substitute for petroleum products in operating electricity generators, factories, and housing units.

The minister added that the petroleum agreements were amended so as to encourage the exploration of natural gas by international companies.

Libya

U.S. Pilot Body To Be Given to Vatican 13 Jan

LD1201195389 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1930 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] Tripoli, 12 January 1989, (JANA)—JANA has learned that in the framework of the humanitarian initiatives to which the Great September Revolution devotes a fundamental interest, the body of the American pilot will be handed over tomorrow, Friday, 13 January 1989, to the representative of the Vatican, representing his holiness the Pope. It is known that the aircraft of the pilot was shot down by the Libyan Arab Air Force during the American aggression against the Great Jamahiriyah in April 1986.

10 Jan U.S. Fighter Plane Incident Protested

LD1301094489 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0750 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Text] Tripoli, 13 Jan (JANA)—A source at the Secretariat of the General People's Committee for Communications and Maritime Transport told JANA about an incident on 10 January 1989 involving a Libyan Arab Airlines Boeing 707 bearing the letters [letters indistinct] on scheduled flight LLA/3200 from Tripoli to Istanbul. He said that as soon as the plane left Tripoli air space and entered Athens air space at 1215 GMT after the point of [word indistinct] about 30 miles from Balahora, the captain of the airliner observed a U.S. fighter plane flying fast from the right to the left. Then the U.S. fighter plane went behind the Libyan Arab plane. After a while, two U.S. fighter planes appeared—one from the right and the second from the left—at a distance of 10 miles from each side and at about the same altitude. The second flying action alongside the Libyan Arab plane continued for about 14 minutes until they approached (Soukouri) Point.

The captain of the Libyan Arab plane informed the Athens air control of this incident.

The source added that the general organization for civil aviation and meteorology has sent a protest to both the Arab Civil Aviation Council and the International Civil Aviation Organization condemning the behavior of the U.S. fighter planes, which endangered the safety of the Libyan Arab plane. The protest added that repetition of such behavior will be considered a threat against international air navigation over the Mediterranean.

Further on Reaction to U.S. Downing of Planes

Al-Turayki: Incident Still Open

LD1201155989 Paris International Service in French 1245 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Excerpts] The UN Security Council's debate in New York on Libya's complaint following the incident with the U.S. fighters 2 weeks ago is concluding with a triple veto by the West. [passage omitted]

For 'Ali al-Turayki, the Libyan representative at the United Nations, the incident with the Americans is still not closed. Listen to him talking to correspondent Michel Ravel:

[Begin Al-Turayki recording] Until the United States withdraws its fleet from these countries and from its present position, we cannot say that the affair is closed. We hope that the United States accepts the appeal by the countries of the whole world and withdraws its fleet from these countries and agrees to resolve the problem by peaceful means. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Maneuvers Violate International Law

LD1201184789 Tripoli JANA in English 1652 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] Tripoli, Ay al-Nar, [January] 12, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The General Commission of the Civil Aviation and Radar in the General People's Committee for Communication and Marine Transport has sent a telegram to the head of the Council of the International Organization of the Civil Aviation on the military maneuvers the U.S. Government is to conduct in areas including the Tripoli information regime of flight in the Mediterranean.

In its telegram, the above commission has stressed that such maneuvers will affect the aerial flight as some international routes will be closed, apart from posing a danger to civil aviation.

Such conduct by the U.S. Government violates the objectives of the International Commission of the Civil Flight according to Article 14 of the Civil Flight International Agreement on improving international aviation with safety.

The telegram denounces these exercises regarding them as a form of state-sponsored terrorism calling on world community to ensure that such threats will not recur and to take urgent measure to stop these exercises to be conducted in areas of great importance to international aviation.

The above commission has requested the chairman of the International Organization for Civil Aviation to interfere to take all measures to stop these maneuvers because of the danger they pose to international aviation.

The telegram calls for suspending the membership of the U.S. in the organization due to its state-sponsored terrorism against civil international aviation, apart from suspending its membership of all civil aviation organizations especially the International Organization of Civil Aviation which aims at achieving the safety and security of international civil aviation.

Maneuvers Pose Danger to Region

LD1201160389 Tripoli JANA in English 1415 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] Tripoli, Ay al-Nar [January] 12, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The secretary of the General People's Committee for Communications and Marine Transport has sent a telegram to his Arab counterparts and those of the countries of the Mediterranean Sea. The telegram reads:

The military maneuvers of the US Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean Sea has been repeated and in a clear way posing a danger to the international air and naval navigation, apart the danger it poses to the navigation in this important region in the world, the last of which being what has been announced by the US Sixth Fleet and the announcement of the pilots issued from the region of Malta aviation information represented by the conducting of military maneuvers of this fleet in the region of the province of Tripoli [words indistinct] aviation during the 16, 17 instant. Because of these maneuvers important international routes will be closed affecting the international aviation in this region in a direct way in terms of safety or the cancellation of many flights.

Therefore, I put forward to you the following points requesting having them done:

1—Concentrating all efforts to stop this announced maneuver because it contravenes the principles of safety and Chicago International Agreement, Article 44.

2—Suspending the membership of the US in the international organizations concerned and specifically the Aviation International Organization as long as this international organization doesn't abide by the conventions and principles of these organizations.

The conducting of such maneuvers represent a dangerous precedent thereby giving a right to each state to conduct its military maneuvers in any region it wants regardless the principles of air safety and the international agreements thereby violating the sovereignty and international conventions.

In conclusion, I thank you in anticipation for your illuminating efforts.

Aviation Group Protests Maneuvers

LD1201154189 Tripoli JANA in English 1429 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] Tripoli, Ay al-Nar [January] JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The General Commission of the Civil Aviation and Radar in the General People's Committee for Communications and Marine Transport has informed the council of civil aviation of the Arab countries regarding the flagrant US threats and the escalation of their aggression through conducting military maneuvers in the international waters near great Al-Jamahiriyah and in areas within the region of Tripoli aviation information.

In its telegram to the secretary general of the above council, the above commission says that the US Government has concentrated its air and naval military presence in these regions conducting presently maneuvers there and in the space of this region.

This commission has stressed that the announcements of the pilots include areas threatening the safety and international movement. Such an eventuality will cause the closing of international air routes which are being used extensively by international civil aviation.

The above commission has called upon this council to take urgent and decisive measures compatible with the dangerous situation obtaining at present, apart from working to stop the US maneuvers.

The above commission has called for coordinating stances with other countries to expel the US Government from the international organization of aviation for its repeated violations all agreements and conventions that safeguard air and international movement, apart from the continuing terrorist policy pursued by the US Government.

U.S. Vetoes UN Condemnation of 'Aggression'

LD1201193389 Tripoli JANA in English 1803 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] New York, Ay al-Nar [January] 12, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The U.N. Security Council condemned the American aggression against the 2 Libyan reconnaissance aircraft over international waters, but the U.S. Government used its veto against the condemnation statement and was joined by both Britain and France.

Great Jamahiriyah's permanent envoy to the U.N. saluted the international consensus in condemning the U.S. aggression and in solidarity with Great Jamahiriyah.

He said: "Such a consensus is a source of our pride. What happened was a full expression by the international assembly of support and backing for Great Jamahiriyah and its right in defending the integrity of its land, at a time it condemned the U.S. aggression."

In an press conference following the session of the U.N. Security Council, he commented on the U.S. Government's stance towards international consensus by saying: "It is not the first time the council is prevented from carrying out its duty through the use of veto. But, despite that, most Security Council members expressed their denounciation and condemnation of the aggression".

In yesterday's final session, Clovis Maqsud, the Arab League's permanent envoy also addresses the session saying: "The U.S. aggression against the 2 Libyan reconnaissance aircraft has coincided with the poisonous media campaign by the U.S. Goverment against Jamahiriyah." He confirmed that all its actions had failed.

He also refuted the claims by the U.S. War Department of acting in self-defence saying: "On such basis, the U.S. military administration grants every state the right to behave within such logic without referring to international laws, which means the rule of chaos."

Envoys of Bulgaria, Belorussia and Mongolia expressed solidarity with the people of Great Jamahiriyah and its right in defending its sovereignty and full independence. They condemned the U.S. aggression against 2 Libyan reconnaissance aircraft confirming that it is not possible to separate between such aggression and the misleading U.S. media campaign against Great Jamahiriyah.

They praised the leader's initiative calling for the medicine plant to be inspected by international inspectors.

They demanded the withdrawl of all military forces from the Mediterranean region turning it into a region of peace and security. They demanded that the council takes the necessary measures to halt aggression against Great Jamahiriyah.

In this session, Palestine envoy expressed condemnation of U.S. aggression, expressed the solidarity of the Palestine people and its leadership with the people of Great Jamahiriyah and its right in defending its sovereignty and independence and demanded that the council takes the necessary measures to secure that such aggression will not be repeated to [word indistinct] peace and security in the region.

The envoy of Malaysia, who chairs the Security Council this month, condemned the U.S. aggression and the hostile escalation by the U.S. Government against Great Jamahiriyah.

Sudanese Condemnation of U.S. Cited

LD1201200689 Tripoli JANA in English 1755 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] Khartoum, Jan 12, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Last night in the presence of the Sudanese minister of culture and information signing took place

on a document of "pledge and promise" by representatives of all parties, unions, sindicates, leagues, organisations, corporations, social bodies and national figures in Sudan which condemns the U.S. aggression and confirm the standing with Great Jamahiriyah and its revolutionary leadership. It said:

We the people of Sudan represented in its political parties, its trade unions, leagues, societies, institutions and social corporations, inspired by our continued history of struggle to confront colonialsim, neo-colonialism and Zionism over our good earth and in adherence to our traditions of struggle throughout the history of our courageous people in resisting imperialist plots and desperate conspriacies to encircle the epic of the ever-escalating struggle of our nation.

And in assertion of our firm stances in solidarity with the struggle of the world nations which aspire freedom and liberation, and in dignity towards the historic and heroic role being led by the Great Socialist Libyan Arab People's Jamahiriyah against the forces of imperialism, colonialism and Zionism, and in solidarity with the people of Jamahiriyah which today is directing a fighting battle against U.S. imperialism—the no. 1 enemy of peoples...

And in support for the steadfast Arab will of the Libyan Arab people in the face of U.S. and Zionist boldness, we the people of Sudan declare the following:

1 - Our absolute condemnation of successive intimidations and aggressions by U.S. imperialism aimed at the glories of the immortal Arab revolution in Great Jamahiriyah and its brave revolutionary leadership.

2 - We once more announce our people's firm resolution to defend to the end the great Al-Fatih of September revolution.

3 - We fly high the banners of jihad, struggle and fighting side by side with the Arab people of Great Jamahiriyah in its battles of struggle against U.S. imperialism and international Zionism.

4 - We consolidate the links of solidarity and struggle between the Sudanese people and Jamahiriyah confirming the one fate and the common destiny and the embodiment of the one will.

5 - We carry arms and rattle the sabre of death and throw destruction in the face of our enemies—imperialists and Zionists—who try desperately and in a mean way to destroy the material and moral gains and achievements of the steadfast Jamahiriyah's revolution which is struggling for its nation all over the Arab and international arenas.

6 - We publicly irreversibly vow that we all are with our Arab people in Great Jamahiriyah defend it with our lives, combat Reagan's terrorism and that of the U.S. Government, struggling and clashing with U.S. imperialism and world Zionism, the enemy of the aspirations of the world's nations.

Malaysian Group Visits 'Pharmaceutical' Plant

BK1201092089 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0812 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Jan 12 (OANA-BERNAMA)—A delegation from a Malaysian political party which has just visited Libya said Thursday it did not come across any evidence that the pharmaceutical plant in Al-Rabitah, about 80 km from Tripoli, produces chemical weapons.

A visit to the factory was part of itinerary for the 25-member team [which] was from the youth wing of Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamed's United Malays National Organisation (UMNO), the leading partner in the 13-party ruling National Front coalition.

"It is obvious the United States accusation (that it is a cover for a chemical arms factory) is baseless and a possible political ploy to discredit the Libyan Government in the eyes of the world," its leader, Ishak Ismail told reporters on his return here after leading the delegation on a 12-day visit to Libya.

Ishak said the plant is a government-owned pharmaceutical establishment that has just begun operations and produces medicine for domestic use and export to other Arab countries.

"The factory has a long-term objective to dominate the pharmaceutical market in the Arab world which has long been controlled by the U.S.," he said.

Ishak said the medium-sized pharmaceutical factory had to be turned into a formidable defence fort equipped with ground-to-air guided missiles because of the U.S. threat to take action to stop the factory from operating.

He said the delegation was impressed by the spirit of solidarity among the Libyan people in standing firm behind their leaders in facing the U.S. threat.

"Since the issue cropped up, hundreds of children started camping in tents around the factory to prove that Libyans are not afraid of any external threat," he added.

During the visit, the Libyan Government told the delegation it plans to award scholarships and reserve several places in universities there for Malaysian students.

A member of the delegation, Naim Mohammad, said this was disclosed by the Libyan Students Congress.

He said the Libyan Government also wished to boost its trade ties with Malaysia.

"Libyan Trade and Industry Secretary Dr Fathia Shatwan told us that as a first step, his country is willing to receive trade delegations from Malaysia," he said.

The visit by the UMNO youth delegation was a follow-up to the one the movement made to Libya last year.

U.S. 'Aggression' Discussed With Algerians

LD1201213989 Tripoli JANA in English 1808 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] Tripoli, Ay al-Nar [January] 12, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The assistant-secretary of the General People's Congress met this morning Mohamed Abada the member of the Permanent Secretariat of the Central Committee of the Algerian National Liberation Front who is visiting Jamahiriyah nowadays.

During this meeting, they discussed the dimensions of the premeditated aggression by U.S. imperialism against Great Jamahiriyah.

The assistant secretary of the General People's Congress praised the standing and solidarity of sisterly Algeria—government and people—with the Libyan Arab People in its brave confrontation with U.S. aggression and foiling all the schemes and conspiracies being plotted by America against Great Jamahiriyah.

He also saluted the unified Arab stance in the face of U.S. imperialist boasting saying: "We are totally confident that Great Jamahiriyah does not stand alone in this confrontation, but with it all Arab masses and their lively forces stand all over the Arab homeland. Such a serious standing by the Arab nation will make us more detemined and strong in facing the enemies of the Arab nation." He praised the popular demonstrations and marches held all over the Arab homeland. He asserted that the U.S. aggression against Great Jamahiriyah was not meant to hit Al-Rabitah plant for medicine manufacturing, but to hit a position resisting and confronting imperialism and colonialism, rejects domination and control. "The U.S. threats will never deter us from our national aims in liberation, unity and dignity."

On his part, Mohamed Abada asserted the standing and the solidarity of the Arab people in Algeria with its brothers in Great Jamahiriyah to confront and fight the enemies. He pointed out that Algeria will not stand idle towards all the attempts aimed at harming the great Al-Fatih revolution or any attempt to endanger the security and safety of Great Jamahiriyah—which is a direct assault on Algeria's freedom and independence and must be confronted.

He praised the high moral spirit of the Libyan Arab people in facing U.S. imperialism and repulsing aggression. He hailed the backing the Libyan Arab people had given to its brother the Arab people in Algeria during the war of liberation.

11 Jan Tunis Talks Held With Algerian Officials

LD1201184689 Tripoli JANA in English 1647 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] Tunis, Ay al-Nar [January] 12, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The Algerian foreign minister, Mr al-Bessaih, has reiterated the condemnation of Algeria of the U.S. aggression against Great Al-Jamahiriyah.

In his meeting in Tunis yesterday with the secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison, he has reconfirmed the supportive stance of sisterly Algeria with the Libyan Arab people in facing U.S. threats and provocations.

At this meeting, the two sides have surveyed and exchanged their viewpoints on the items on the agenda of the emergency meeting of the Council of Arab League to be held in Tunis tomorrow.

Algerian Trade Cooperation Protocol Signed

LD1201211089 Tripoli JANA in English 1702 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] Algiers, Ay al-Nar [January] 12, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Yesterday evening in Algiers, signing took place on a protocol of meetings held by the Committee for Existing Unity Cooperation in the field of commercial exchanges between Great Jamahiriyah and sisterly Algeria.

The protocol, which was signed by the secretary of the General People's Committee for Economy and Foreign Trade and Murad Madlisi the Algerian minister of commerce in the presence of the secretary of the Libyan Arab Brotherhood Bureau, included the development and enhancement of unity cooperation in the field of trade, increase of the size of the exchange of commodities produced by both countries and study the available potential to exploit them to satisfy the needs of both countries by them.

It also included coordination and consultation to enter the world market as a single side and to study a project agreement for the crossing of goods.

It concluded by stressing on intensifying direct contacts between establishments and firms in both countries in accordance with the resolutions reached by the follow-up committee in its previous session.

Moroccan Social Security Agreement Ratified

LD1201212589 Tripoli JANA in English 1814 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] Tripoli, Ay al-Nar [January] 12, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—This morning at the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison documents of ratification for the social security agreement were signed between Great Jamahiriyah and sisterly Morocco.

Sources of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison said that the agreement was signed between Great Jamahiriyah and Morocco during the past years.

Arab Opposition Parties Conference Postponed
NC1201161989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1552 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jan (MENA)—It has been decided to postpone the conference of Arab opposition parties which was scheduled to take place next Sunday in Tripoli the Libyan capital. This was stated by Ahmad Mujahid, deputy leader of the Socialist Labor Party, who said he had received a cable to this effect from the Libyan People's Committees which will host the conference.

Mujahid added that the Egyptian opposition parties delegation includes Khalid Muhiy al-Din, secretary general of the NPUG; Ahmad Mujahid, deputy leader of Socialist Labor Party; and Hilmi Salim, assistant secretary general of the socialist Liberal Party.

Libya had called this meeting in the wake of the downing of two Libyan planes by U.S. warplanes.

Burkina Faso's Lengani Arrives 12 Jan
LD1201221889 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1815 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Excerpts] Captain Jean-Baptiste [Lengani], defense minister of Burkina Jamahiriyah, and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Tripoli this evening on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. [passage omitted]

The Burkina Jamahiriyah defense minister made a statement to JANA, in which he said: We have come to the Great Jamahiriyah to say with a loud voice that all our support and solidarity are with the Libyan Arab people and the leader of its revolution in their struggle against imperialism, and to emphasize what Captain Blaise Campaore said in his message to brother Colonel Mu'ammar al- Qadhdhafi. He affirmed that the U.S. Government's policy is considered to be a terrorist policy, and called for it to be faced with all force and for the formation of a large anti-imperialist front to face any U.S. aggression against us.

Captain Jean-Baptiste reiterated the stance and solidarity of the Burkina Jamahiriyah with the people of the Great Jamahiriyah.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives YAR Delegation
LD1201154889 Tripoli JANA in English 1413 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] Tripoli, Ay al-Nar [January] 12, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of revolution has received Mr. D. Nu'man, governor of Dhamar and member of the Standing Committee of the General People's Congress in North Yemen, and his accompanying delegation.

He has reaffirmed to the leader of revolution the supportive stand of his people alongside the Libyan Arab people in facing any aggression targeting great Al-Jamahiriyah and its massive civilized transformations.

He has reconfirmed that he and his accompanying delegation has come to Al-Rabitah pharmaceutical factory to close ranks with the doctors, pharmacists and nurses staging a sit-in there alongside the masses of the Basic People's Congresses and the rank and file of students and producers.

Morocco

King Hassan Receives UN Envoy 11 Dec
LD1201132289 Rabat MAP in English 1215 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] Marrakesh, Jan. 12. (MAP)—King Hassan II received Wednesday in Marrakesh Mr Hector Gros Espiell, U.N. secretary general's [words indistinct] Sahara.

Mr. Gros Espiell was accompanied by U.N. Assistant Secretary General Issa Dialo and Malian Permanent Ambassador to the U.N. Noumou Diakite.

The audience was attended by the king's adviser Ahmad Reda Guedira, Minister of the Interior and of Information Driss Basri and Morocco's permament representative to the U.N. Driss Slawi. Gros Espiell had arrived in Casablanca on Tuesday afternoon as part of the U.N. secretary general's good offices mission on the Sahara issue.

Communique on Malian President's Visit Issued
LD1201132989 Rabat MAP in English 1223 Gmt 12 Jan 89

[Text] Rabat, Jan 12 (MAP)—Morocco and Mali have voiced backing to the proclamation of the independent Palestinian state and called for the holding of an international peace conference on the Middle East as an appropriate framework to seek a fair, comprehensive and definite settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

This came in the joint communique released Wednesday at the end of the state visit President of Mali General Moussa Traore paid to Morocco. The communique pointed out that King Hassan II and President Traore have analysed various international and regional issues and expressed satisfaction at the positive evolution marking the international scene and at the efforts made by the international community to settle existing problems mainly in the Middle East, Africa, Asia and Latin America.

The two heads of state, the communique specified, rejoice at the conclusion of the Brazzaville accords that pave the way to the independence of Namibia, in line with UN resolutions, and thus gather conditions or establishing a new era of peace and understanding in this part of the African Continent.

Expressing worry at the situation prevailing in South Africa in view of the apartheid regime, King Hassan II and President Traore voiced hope that the African Continent devote all its efforts and human and material energies to its development and prosperity.

Regarding bilateral relations, King Hassan II and President Traore reviewed all aspects of Moroccan-Malian cooperation and discussed ways of upgrading it in all areas. They have thus decided to give it a new impetus through the carrying out of joint projects particularly in matters of cultural, technical, and educational cooperation as well as in the areas of staff training, information, territorial administration and rural development, the joint communique stated, adding that the two heads of state granted a special attention to the promotion of the Niger office and to the consolidation of cooperation in the struggle against the locust invasion, drought and desertification.

Expressing satisfaction at the level of bilateral cooperation, King Hassan II and President Traore decided to summon a meeting of the Moroccan-Malian joint commission next March in Bamako to give a new impetus to this cooperation, the communique pointed out.

President Traore who left Morocco Wednesday at the end of a two day state visit followed by a private visit to Agadir and Taroudant sent to King Hassan II a cable hailing the success achieved by the Moroccan people in all areas of national edification.

"I remain convinced that the fruitful talks we had and which reaffirmed our common determination to promote further the relations of friendship and brotherly cooperation between Morocco and Mali constitute an important phase in our struggle for the prosperity and well-being of our peoples", Traore's message stated.

Libyan Official Discusses Nationals in Libya

LD1201232989 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] Concerning Moroccan-Libyan relations, a working session was held in Rabat today between Mr Hassan Abbadi, the Moroccan minister of labor, and Mr Fawzi al-Shakshuki, the secretary of public services in the Libyan Jamahiriyah. The two sides examined the issues concerning the situation of our community living in Libya.

Sudan

Justice Minister Discusses Southern Rebels

PM1201153089 Paris LE MONDE in French 24 Dec 88 p 4

[Jean Gueyras dispatch: "We Will Continue To Use Corporal Punishment"]

[Text] Khartoum—Hasan al-Turabi, who chairs the National Islamic Front, is known for his frankness and has no hesitation in revealing to journalists—with whom he likes to talk—what his Sudanese Government colleagues often conceal behind ambiguous diplomatic wording.

The Islamic movement's strong man and justice minister, who joined the government last May, plays an essential role in public affairs and his remarks often reflect the thinking of Mr al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, prime minister and leader of the Al-'Ummah Party, who is also his brother-in-law.

Receiving us at the Justice Ministry, he discussed the problem of the Addis Ababa peace agreement signed with the southern rebels led by John Garang on 16 November. All the discussions on that subject, he said, took place between the different components of the coalition. "They were informed so that each party could have its own interpretation of the agreement, although we are of course all agreed on holding a constitutional conference and on establishing a cease-fire if possible. But we disagree on the other clauses in the agreement."

Mr al-Mahdi says that Mr al-Mirghani, chairman of the Democratic Unionist Party and a signatory of the Addis Ababa agreement, which is now being called into question, approved of those procedures. He attributes his insistence on obtaining a comprehensive and official agreement from the government to pressure exerted on him by some members of his entourage who, he says, are the real initiators of the Addis Ababa approach.

Mr al-Turabi is particularly bitter toward the Democratic Unionist Party. "The party," he said, "apparently wants to boost Mr al-Mirghani's stature as a man of peace, and probably wants to oust us from government. Indeed, it has never accepted our participation in the coalition because we are rivals fighting for the same constituencies."

Is he hostile to the Addis Ababa agreement? "We are in favor of peace and a constitutional conference, but without any preconditions. That strikes me as reasonable."

Does the government think that military victory over the rebels is possible?

"Not in the way in which it happened in Nigeria," he said. "But it is good to exert military pressure on the Sudanese People's Liberation Army. We want to persuade the other side to negotiate. They are not serious. At all events, if the Ethiopians do not give the go-ahead, there will be no peace."

It is impossible to interview Mr al-Turabi without discussing the controversial problem of the shari'a (Islamic law) and the hudud (corporal punishments). "There has never been any Islamic law," he explained, "without amputation, flagellation, and other such sentences. It is written in the Koran. Everybody agrees on this point, even Mr al-Mahdi. We will continue to apply these punishments, even if it damages our image in international opinion. The important thing is not to displease God."

Mr Hasan al-Turabi deplored the slow introduction of the new Islamic laws currently held up in an ad hoc legislative committee. "If something happened that forced us to leave the government," he stressed, "everybody would be happy, especially us. We joined this government in May reluctantly and unwillingly to help the coalition overcome the chaos in which it was floundering. We made a sacrifice for democracy but, as a party, we have lost. The government is very divided, its image is not good and reflects impotence and inefficiency, and that is not our style. As a party, we are very efficient, we are young, politically organized, and we do not fit in here."

Democratic Unionist Deputy Denies Return Reports
LD1201113789 Khartoum SUNA in English
1030 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] Khartoum Jan. 12 (SUNA)—Despite the news reports circulated on possible DUP return to the government DUP [Democratic Unionist Party] Deputy Secretary General Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn affirmed that his party will not participate in a war backed government. "The DUP return to the government or not is highly depending on the realization of peace or the continuity war he said."

"We are convinced that peace will only be realized through the DUP SPLA peace initiative" he said.

Al-Turabi Stops in Libya En Route to Tunis
LD1201205189 Tripoli JANA in English
1658 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] Tripoli, Ay al-Nar [January] 13 [date as received] (JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY)—Mr. al-Turabi, foreign minister of sisterly Sudan, stopped at Tripoli airport on his way to Tunis to attend the emergency meeting of the foreign minister of Arab countries.

He was welcomed at the airport by Col. Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir.

Commenting to JANA, Mr. al-Turabi has expressed his happiness to stop in the land of Great Al-Jamahiriyah on his way to Tunis for the above reason. He adds that it is a pleasure to pass from here discussing the existing brotherly relations between the Arab people in Great Al-Jamahiriyah and Sudan.

Tunisia

Parties Condemn Downing of Libyan Planes
PM1201114889 Tunis LE RENOUVEAU in French
6 Jan 89 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Political Parties Condemn Attack"]

[Text] The Tunisian political parties have issued the following communique:

In accordance with the principles and guidelines laid down in the National Pact and in response to popular feeling aroused by the escalation of the crisis in relations between the United States and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah following the downing of two Libyan reconnaissance planes by the U.S. naval air force over the Mediterranean and with a view to future developments in this situation, the representatives of Tunisian political parties met at Constitutional Democratic Rally Headquarters on the morning of Thursday 5 January 1989 and issued the following statement:

The Tunisian political parties learned with acute irritation of Wednesday's aggression against two Libyan planes making a routine reconnaissance flight in international air space by the U.S. fleet in the Mediterranean following threats and unusual military movements targeted at the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

The Tunisian political parties condemn this odious crime, which is a glaring violation of the right of states to make legitimate use of international air space and a flagrant violation of international conventions governing navigation in international air space and waters.

The political parties strongly condemn this aggression and any use of force in settling disputes and conflicts between states.

The Tunisian political parties think that this behavior hampers international efforts being made at various levels to reconcile opposing viewpoints and to create a climate conducive to agreement and harmony. They warn international public opinion against such machinations and call on parties and organizations throughout the world to oppose these plots and take action to end them and to end all threats from whatever source.

The Tunisian political parties are worried by the consequences that this aggression could have for the region and for international security, and they support the efforts made by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali since the first signs of an escalation in the crisis between the United States and the sisterly Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, and support the firm position adopted by the Tunisian Government following the downing of the two Libyan planes. In this connection, they call on the Tunisian Government and fraternal governments in the region to remain firm and vigilant.

Reflecting the general feeling of all components of the Tunisian people, the Tunisian political parties express their full solidarity with the fraternal Libyan people and state that the Tunisian people loyally and resolutely support their brothers in defending their dignity and their country's integrity, because they are convinced that the Greater Arab Maghreb shares the same cause and destiny.

The Tunisian political parties also decided to follow developments in the situation closely.

The parties are:

Constitutional Democratic Rally,

Democratic Socialist Movement,

Tunisian Communist Party,

Popular Unity Party,

Socialist Party for Progress,

Progressive Socialist Assembly,

Unionist Democratic Union.

President Receives Algerian Foreign Minister
LD1201135589 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Within the framework of the ongoing contacts between the leaders of the Arab Maghreb countries, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received Algerian Foreign Minister Boualem Bessaieh this morning at the Palace of the Republic in Carthage. The meeting was attended by Hedi Baccouche, Habib Ammar, Abdelhamid Escheikh, and by Mohamed Brahim Mili, the Algerian ambassador in Tunisia. The Algerian foreign minister made the following statement:

[Begin Algerian foreign minister's recording] I had the honor to be received by His Excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, to whom I conveyed a message from his brother, His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid. It was a valuable occasion during which we talked about bilateral relations and expressed our strong political will to consolidate relations in all fields between Tunisia and Algeria. We also tackled the development of the situation in the Maghreb region, and the work of the existing committees, which are preparing cooperation programs in economic, cultural, and social fields between the countries of the Greater Arab Maghreb. This will undoubtedly be crowned by meetings at the highest levels [words indistinct] in order to study these issues and make decisions about them, and to take serious and firm steps toward the edification of our dear Greater Arab Maghreb. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Kuwait

Foreign Minister Addresses Chemical Warfare Talks

LD0901151589 Kuwait KUNA in English 1210 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] Paris, Jan 9 (KUNA)—Kuwait has expressed profound concern over how scientific progress and new technologies are used to produce new generations of destructive chemical and nuclear weapons and called on the international community to prohibit any production or use of them.

Addressing the Paris international conference on the prohibition of chemical weapons, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said the most alarming danger which threatens humanity today is but [as received] these weapons capable of destroying man and his environment and wreaking havoc.

"Kuwait, which does not have any chemical weapons confirms its adherence to the (?1925) Geneva protocol and to all other conventions and treaties of international law and approves the necessity to achieve world-wide adherence to this protocol and to other related international conventions aiming at strengthening confidence and consolidating security on both the international and regional levels," Shaykh Sabah told the conference.

"We hope that all countries will adopt a constructive position as to the work of this conference to achieve global world-wide prohibition of weapons and to study all matters related to this subject," he added.

"This drives us to refer at this stage to two important principles to which, in our opinion, all countries whether small or large should adhere in order to ensure a global and world-wide execution of all measures agreed upon in this regard," Shaykh Sabah said.

"Any violation by any country or group of countries of existing or future agreements should be dealt with according to the same standards as a selective accusation or condemnation is contrary to the spirit of justice and equity which should prevail in international relations," he put forward the first principle.

"Any country especially if it is a great power threatening to use force or insinuating it would use force against any other country is considered in the best of cases in contradiction with the spirit of detente currently prevailing in the world and an explicit violation of the principles of the charter of the United Nations concerning the prohibition of the use of force or the threat of using it in international (?situations), especially if such accusations are made against a particular country rather than the other," he added.

Shaykh Sabah said Israel had never been condemned or accused by any of those who hasten to condemn when one of the Arab countries is concerned. He said Israel does not only produce, stock-pile and develop weapons and toxin gases in the Middle East but it has also instituted a shameful cooperation in this field with the regime of apartheid in South Africa. He added that Israel has used and is still using internationally prohibited weapons against the Palestinian and Arab peoples. Israel has used these weapons including chemical weapons to repress the heroic revolt of the Palestinian people.

"Kuwait calls on the international community to condemn Israel for its use of toxin gases against the citizens of the West Bank and Gaza which has led to many cases of intoxication, abortion and death by asphyxiation," Shaykh Sabah said. He urged the international community to deal carefully with the increasing danger resulting from burying dangerous waste in some developing countries. "Under the pressure of poverty and the spur of quick money or in consequence of the little importance attached to the human being in the South some industrial firms in the North have used the territory of some poor countries in the South as dumping ground for their waste or their toxin chemicals without any protection measures, sometimes without the knowledge of these countries' governments, without any compliance to the most elementary human rights and without response of man's rights to his own security and his children's security. All this can be summarized in one basic question: Why this strong pressure and this destruction of the South. Aren't natural disasters, from long periods of drought to destructive floods, invasions of locusts and epidemics sufficient? You read about all this every day but our friends in the North further destroy the environment and people and defeat any move towards the future," Shaykh Sabah recited exerpts from the speech of his highness the amir before the U.N. General Assembly last September.

"Starting from this humanitarian call, Kuwait can only approve all international efforts made to put together a global plan of action to deal with radioactive and toxin wastes and to eliminate them without endangering man and his survival," he pledged.

Shaykh Sabah paid tribute to the United Nations and its important role in ensuring peace and stability in the world on the basis of the principles included in its charter.

"Kuwait can but appreciate these efforts and calls on all member countries to continue to support this international organization especially the permanent members of the Security Council in order to allow it to play its role according to its charter to achieve peace and security in the world and to contribute to the wellbeing of mankind," he concluded.

Oman

UK Foreign Secretary Talks With Counterpart

JN0701170089 Manama WAKH in English 1548 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] Muscat, Jan 7 (GNA)—Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf ibn 'Alawi ibn 'Abdallah and British Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe held official talks here today, Radio Muscat said.

The talks covered means of promoting and boosting bilateral relations in various fields, the situation in the Arabian Gulf region following the ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war. [sentence as received]

The peace process in the Middle East in light of the recent meetings of the Palestinian National Council (PNC) in Algiers and the possibility of holding the international conference on peace in the Middle East under the patronage of the United Nations were also discussed between the two ministers. The two sides also discussed a number of important international issues, mainly the Afghan and Kampuchean problems.

Meets With Sultan Qabus

JN0701171589 Manama WAKH in English 1630 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] Muscat, Jan 7 (GNA)—Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman received here today British Foreign Secretary Sir Geofrrey Howe, currently visiting the Sultanate.

The meeting was attended by Omani State Minister for Foreign Affairs Yusuf ibn 'Alawi ibn 'Abdallah and the British ambassador to Oman.

PDRY

PLO's 'Arafat Addresses Supreme People's Council

EA1101021389 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Excerpts] The Supreme People's Council [SPC] resumed its first meeting this afternoon under the chairmanship of Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the SPC Presidium. The meeting was attended by Brother Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, and a number of Arab and foreign diplomats accredited to our country.

Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas welcomed Brother Yasir 'Arafat and his delegation as participants to the meeting, which was taking place as the Palestinian people celebrate the proclamation of their state. He noted that the flag of the state of Palestine was hoisted over the Palestinian Embassy building in Aden today. He reiterated that our country would provide unlimited support for the Palestinian cause until all its objectives were achieved, including the hoisting of the flag of the Palestinian state in Jerusalem.

Brother Yasir 'Arafat also delivered a speech in which he expressed appreciation for the principled and consistent support for the Palestinian cause in all Arab and international forums. He expressed high appreciation for the Yemeni leadership's all-out efforts to reunite the Palestinian ranks. He recalled that Aden was one of the major stations for regaining unity—the fruit of which was the proclamation of the state of Palestine. He lauded the support received by the Palestinian state from various countries. He referred to the changes in the Palestinian, Arab, and international arenas and the importance of these changes to the achievement of the just causes of the people.

He referred to the hostile intentions of the Zionist enemy which was committing aggression against a number of Arab countries. He praised the Arab countries consistent and principled position supporting the Palestinian cause. He stressed the Palestinians determination to continue the struggle until victory is won. [passage omitted]

The SPC will resume its meeting this evening.

Departs After Visit

EA1101020489 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] Brother Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, left Aden this afternoon after a brief visit to our country during which he attended the ceremony marking the raising of the Palestinian flag over the Palestinian Embassy building in Aden.

During the first meeting of the eighth session of the Supreme People's Council [SPC], a motion from the Presidium proposed naming the session the Palestine Session. 'Arafat delivered an important speech on the occasion.

Brother 'Arafat was seen off at the airport by Brothers Haydar Abu Bakr Al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the SPC Presidium; Muhammad Sa'id 'Abdallah Muhsin, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee; Brother Salah Khalaf—Abu Iyad, member of the Fatah Central Committee; 'Abbas Zaki, member of the Fatah Revolutionary Council and general director of pan-Arab and international affairs of the PLO.

Brother Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Aden this morning and was accorded a big official reception. Leading those who welcomed him was Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau, and a number of members of the Political Bureau and Central Committee, as well as ministers; and Muhammad Abu Shanab, the

charge d'affaires of the Palestinian Embassy in Aden, as well as the ambassadors of fraternal and friendly countries accredited to our country.

Qatar

Iranian Economic Delegation Arrives 10 Jan

JN1001212289 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1810 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] Doha, 10 Jan (WAKH)—An Iranian economic delegation under Mojtaba Khosrow-Taj, assistant to the deputy minister of commerce, arrived in Doha this evening on a 3-day visit to Qatar.

In an arrival statement to QNA, he said that the visit is meant to increase cooperation and bolster bilateral economic relations.

He said that the delegation will discuss a number of issues related to expanding the technical and economic cooperation in the industrial and agricultural fields and activating foreign trade. He pointed out that the delegation comprises representatives of the agricultural, industrial, heavy industry, foreign trade, and private sectors.

The delegation will meet a number of officials at the Ministries of Industry, Agriculture, Commerce, and Economy, and the Qatar Chamber of Commerce.

Economic Talks Begin

JN1101162689 Manama WAKH in English 1548 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] Doha, Jan 11 (GNA)—A round of talks was held here today between senior officials at the Qatari Economy and Trade Ministry and a visiting Iranian economic delegation led by Mojtaba Khosrow-Taj, assistant undersecretary for foreign trade.

An official source at the ministry told QATARI NEWS AGENCY the two sides reviewed economic and trade relations between the two countries and means of enhancing them.

The Iranian delegation stressed the importance of boosting trade exchange and discussed prospects for exchange of technical expertise especially in industrial and construction fields. The Iranian side has presented an offer for a number of investments in several fields in Iran especially by the private sector, the source said.

The Iranian delegation arrived here last night for a three-day visit.

Meetings Continue

JN1201152089 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1405 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] Doha, 12 Jan (WAKH)—A meeting was held today at the Qatari Chamber of Commerce between Ahmad Muhammad al-Suwaydi, chairman of the chamber's board of directors, and members of the Iranian economic delegation headed by Mojtaba Khorsow-Taj, deputy minister of commerce for foreign trade affairs, which is currently visiting Qatar.

They reviewed trade relations and the existing trade exchange between the two countries and means to activate it.

The Iranian side stressed its interest in Qatari industries and stressed tis desire to increase the volume of Qatari exports to Iran through some basic industries like iron, steel, petrochemical products, and other medium and light industries.

It is worth mentioning that Iranian exports to Qatar totalled 11.1 million Qatari riyals in 1987. These included food products, animal fodder, organic fertilizers, furniture, carpets, and other industries. Qatari exports to Iran included chemical fertilizers and petrochemical products.

Saudi Arabia

'Source' Denies Deal Made With Syria Over Egypt

LD1201180289 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1645 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] Riyadh, 12 Jan (SPA)—A responsible source has refuted the report carried by the 11 January CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR claiming that Syria has agreed not to oppose Egypt's return to the Arab League in return for material aid from Saudi Arabia.

The responsible source told SPA: The Kingdom has already refuted this report in previous statements, and it now reaffirms that this report is totally untrue.

King Fahd Receives Pakistan's Benazir Bhutto

LD1101223789 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2134 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Excerpts] Al-Dammam, 11 Jan (SPA)—At his office this evening the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, received the prime minister of Pakistan, Mrs Benazir Bhutto, and her accompanying delegation. [passage omitted]

Following the meeting, Minister of Information 'Ali Hasan al-Sha'ir told SPA that the meeting between the custodian of the two holy mosques and the prime minister of Pakistan dealt with relations between the two countries, especially the consolidation of the fraternal ties which stem from the Islamic religion, which guides the two countries.

The custodian of the two holy mosques confirmed that Islam is the safety belt of the Islamic peoples in the face of all the challenges.

In the name of the government and people of Pakistan, Mrs Bhutto expressed to the custodian of the two holy mosques sincere gratitude and appreciation for the support and backing which the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia continues to provide to Pakistan in various fields.

'Arafat Meets With Foreign Minister in Tunis

LD1301023889 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2349 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] Tunis, 12 Jan (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, met here tonight with Mr Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee.

The meeting was attended by Ibrahim Sa'd al-Ibrahim, Saudi ambassador to Tunisia, and Hakam Bal'awi, PLO representative in Tunis.

His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal took part in the meetings of the Arab League Council's emergency session devoted to the Libyan complaint regarding the U.S. downing of two Libyan aircraft, the U.S. threats against Libya, and to the constitutional crisis in Lebanon.

RCC Vice Chairman Addresses Islamic Conference

JN1001190089 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1245 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 10 Jan (INA)—The second general conference of the Higher Council for Islamic Affairs began 4 days of meetings here today under the slogan "Peace and Islam".

President Saddam Husayn deputized RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim to open the conference.

The conference discusses a number of studies and research focusing basically on two themes: Peace in Islam, and deviant trends and movements and the role of Islamic institutions to confront them and their danger.

The conference is considered an Islamic demonstration in which more than 300 leaders of Arab and Islamic thought express their pride in and appreciation for Iraq and its victory over the Iranian enemy, and its role in serving Islamic action and protecting the Islamic creed from destructive ideas and deviant trends.

At the outset of the opening ceremony, Mr Ibrahim delivered a speech in which he said that the enemies of the nation and its creed were victims of fatal and dangerous illusions. Their evil dreams, ignorance, and arrogance drove them to antagonize Iraq, not knowing that Iraq conjured up the complete history of the nation, including all its dimensions, examples, and glories. [passage omitted]

He stressed that Iraq is heading, with good intentions and firm determination, toward establishing peace and removing the spectre of new war without allowing the aggressors to reap any fruits of their aggression or strengthening their hope of achieving any aggressive aim now or in the future.

He referred to the sluggishness in the exchange of POW's and to the placing of this human tragedy in the labyrinths of politics and stubborness. He said that the Iranian regime, in realization of certain suspicious purposes and out of its belief that it can make some gains through non-Islamic and inhuman practices, began to procrastinate and delay this process, not heeding this tragedy.

He added that the Iranian regime has so far refused to register tens of thousands of POW's. It enabled the Red Cross neither to contact them nor to identify their names. Their families, consequently, do not know whether they are alive or not. This, he said, raised many religious, social, and family problems, especially concerning civil affairs.

Mr Ibrahim stressed that despite the hope for peace, it is a cause of great concern that the mentality that led the Iranian rulers to perpetrate the aggression on Iraq still governs their conduct and directs their policies. He added: If their guns were silenced by force, their leaders are still designing schemes to tear up the Islamic ranks, harm the Arab nation—the nation of Koran and the Islamic message—and to achieve racist and sectarian purposes already known by all knowledgeable Muslims. [passage omitted]

Reportage on Official Talks With GDR Delegation

Talks Begin 10 Jan

JN1001143989 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1240 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Jan (INA)—Official talks between Iraq and the GDR began here today.

The Iraqi side was headed by Taha Muhyi al-Din Ma'ruf, vice president and RCC member, and the GDR side by Gerald Goetting, deputy chairman of the Council of State and deputy president of the People's Chamber.

At the beginning of the talks, Ma'ruf stressed that the visit to Iraq by the GDR delegation is a step toward enhancing the bilateral relations and expanding cooperation between the two countries.

The vice president reviewed Iraq's positions, which call for reaching a peace agreement with Iran to guarantee the region's security and stability. He pointed out Iraq's post-war endeavor in the field of economic and social development.

Mr Goetting renewed his country's support for Iraq's peaceful efforts and its endeavor to conclude a lasting peace agreement with Iran to ensure peace and stability in the region. He expressed his country's desire to promote the relations of cooperation with Iraq in the economic, technical, and cultural fields.

The two sides reviewed topics on the agenda of the 12th session of the Iraqi-GDR joint higher committee for scientific, commercial, and economic cooperation.

On the Iraqi side, the talks were attended by the under secretary of the Foreign Ministry and the Iraqi ambassador in Berlin. On the GDR side, the talks were attended by Reiner Neumann, director of the Middle East Department at the Foreign Ministry; Dr Lunar Guenther, secretary of the League for Friendship Among Peoples—the Arab countries section; and the GDR ambassador in Baghdad.

Ma'ruf had earlier held a closed meeting with Mr Goetting during which the relations of cooperation between the two countries in the various fields were discussed.

GDR's Goetting Sees Hammadi

JN1101120789 Baghdad INA in English 1150 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad, Jan. 11 INA—Iraqi Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mr. Sa'dun Hammadi met here today with Deputy Chairman of the State Council and Deputy Chairman of the People's Council in the German Democratic Republic (GDR) Mr. Gerald Goetting and his accompanying delegation.

During the meeting relations of cooperation between the two countries were discussed.

The German official expressed happiness for the developed relations between the two countries which witness continuous development particularly the German people highly appreciates and likes the Iraqi peoples and its leadership who was the first to recognize the GDR outside the socialist camp.

The meeting was attended by deputy speaker of the National Assembly, Mr. Baha' al-Din Ahmad and the GDR ambassador in Baghdad.

Goetting Meets With Ramadan

JN1101163089 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, today received Gerald Goetting, deputy chairman of the GDR State Council and deputy president of the GDR Presidium, and his accompanying delegation.

They discussed bilateral relations and affirmed the common desire to develop these relations in all spheres.

The GDR deputy State Council chairman affirmed that Iraqi-GDR relations will witness a large-scale development in the future.

The meeting was attended by the GDR ambassador in Baghdad.

Conveys Greetings to President

JN1101185889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Jan (INA)—President Saddam Husayn this evening received Gerald Goetting, deputy chairman of the GDR State Council and deputy president of the GDR Presidium.

Goetting conveyed to the president GDR State Council Chairman Erich Honecker's greetings and wishes of development and prosperity for the Iraqi people.

They discussed existing bilateral relations and means of promoting cooperation between them in all fields.

The meeting was attended by RCC Member Vice President Taha Muhyi al-Din Ma'ruf.

Poland's Jastrzebski Attends Cooperation Talks

Attends 10th Session

JN1001151489 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1420 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Jan (INA)—The 10th session of the Iraqi-Polish joint committee for economic, scientific and technical cooperation began its meetings here today.

The Iraqi side was headed by Planning Minister Samal Faraj, and the Polish side by Foreign Economic Cooperation Minister Dominik Jastrzebski.

The two sides agreed to form two committees, the first for economic, trade, scientific, and technical cooperation, and the other for financial cooperation. They will be assigned the task of preparing the final results of the joint committee meetings.

The ninth session of the Iraqi-Polish joint committee held its meetings in Warsaw in March 1987.

Mr Jastrzebski and his accompanying delegation arrived in Baghdad last night.

Meets With Ramadan

JN1001165389 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, received Dominik Jastrzebski, Polish foreign economic cooperation minister, today.

Ramadan stressed that the strategic projects that will be executed in Iraq during the coming stage will help support the national economy.

Jastrzebski expressed the appreciation of the Polish leadership and people for the leadership of President Saddam Husayn, and praised the economic growth in Iraq. He stressed his confidence in the prosperous future of Iraq's economy.

The meeting was attended by Samal Faraj, minister of planning and head of the Iraqi side in the Iraqi-Polish joint committee for economic, scientific, and technical cooperation; and the Polish ambassador in Baghdad. The relations of cooperation between both countries and means to promote them were discussed.

Sees Industry Minister

JN1101101189 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0950 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Jan (INA)—Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and military industrialization, met with Dominik Jastrzebski, Polish foreign economic cooperation minister, today.

During the meeting, which was attended by the Polish ambassador in Baghdad and the Iraqi Industry Ministry under secretary, the talks dealt with means of bilateral cooperation in the industrial fields.

Economic Cooperation Pact Signed

JN1201185489 Baghdad INA in English 1755 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad, Jan. 12, INA—Iraq and Poland signed an agreement of economic, scientific and technical cooperation today at the conclusion of the meetings of the 10th session of the joint committee between the two countries.

The agreement stated on expanding and developing cooperation in trade, economic and industrial fields as well as on exchanging technical and scientific expertise between the two countries.

The agreement was signed on the Iraqi side by Planning Minister Mr. Samal Majid Faraj and on the Polish side by Mr. Dominik Jastrzebski, minister of external economic cooperation.

Makes Statement, Departs

JN1301105289 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0828 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad, 13 Jan (INA)—Dominik Jastrzebski, Polish minister of foreign economic cooperation, left Baghdad this morning following a 4-day visit to Iraq. During the visit, the Polish minister chaired his country's side to the meetings of the joint Iraqi-Polish committee for economic, scientific, and technical cooperation which concluded here yesterday.

In a statement to INA, the Polish minister voiced satisfaction and pleasure for the positive, effective outcome of the meetings, which will consolidate and promote aspects of cooperation between the two countries, particularly in the economic, trade, and scientific fields. He affirmed the Polish companies' readiness to participate in Iraq's current development.

Ramadan-Led Delegation Leaves for Cairo

JN0701103889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0950 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Jan (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, has left Baghdad for Cairo to lead the Iraqi delegation to the meetings of the second session of the joint higher Iraqi-Egyptian committee.

In a statement to INA, Taha Yasin Ramadan said that the meetings of the higher committee will deal with what has been implemented since the meetings of the first session held in Baghdad last July. He added that new issues and spheres will be discussed during the meetings, particularly developing cooperation in the fields of economy, agriculture, industry, trade, transportation, communications, scientific research, justice, culture, health, and finance.

Ramadan expressed confidence that the results of this session will be distinguished and comprehensive because it convenes under new Arab circumstances created by the victories of Iraq's sons—the victories that have paved the way for peace. He affirmed the seriousness of officials in the two sisterly countries to find all methods to contribute to deepening the march of bilateral relations so that they will be an example to follow in the Arab arena. He added that the talks will also deal with the political situation, particularly with regard to the negotiations between Iraq and Iran, developments in the Palestine question, the general Arab situation, and ways to reinforce Arab solidarity.

The delegation accompanying Ramadan comprises Transport and Communications Minister Muhammad Hamzah; Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih; Agriculture and Irrigation Minister Karim Hasan Rida; Justice Minister Akram 'Abd al-Qadir; Scientific Research Council Chairman Najih Muhammad Khalil; the under secretaries of the Foreign, Industry, Military Industrialization, and Finance Ministries; and a number of officials.

Ramadan was seen off at the airport by RCC member Hasan 'Ali, a number of ministers, and the Egyptian charge d'affaires in Baghdad.

Oil Minister Receives U.S. Representative

JN1101133189 Baghdad INA in English 1300 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad Jan. 11, INA—Iraqi Oil Minister 'Issam 'Abd al-Rahim al-Jalabi met here today with Mr. Charlie Wilson, member of the U.S. House of Representatives and his accompanying delegation.

During the meeting, attended by the U.S. ambassador to Baghdad, conditions of the oil international market and the latest agreement reached by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), were discussed.

Mr. Baha' al-Din Ahmad, deputy speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly, had met earlier today with Mr. Wilson and discussed with him the parliamentary relations and means of developing them.

Trade Minister Receives SFRY Official

JN1201122389 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1130 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Jan (INA)—Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih met here today with Milenko Sarac, vice president of the SFRY Federal Committee for Energy and Industry and deputy chairman of the SFRY side to the joint Iraqi-SFRY committee for economic, trade, and technical cooperation, and the accompanying delegation. During the meeting, which was attended by the SFRY ambassador in Baghdad, they reviewed economic relations between the two countries and ways to promote them to serve their common interests.

Joint Committee Talks Begin

JN1201140089 Baghdad INA in English 1330 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad, Jan. 12, INA—Meetings of the preparatory of the 14th session of the Iraqi-Yugoslav joint committee for economic, technical and scientific cooperation began here today.

The Iraqi side to the meetings were headed by Iraqi under-secretary of Housing and Construction Mahmud Dhiab al-Ahmad, while the Yugoslav side was headed by the Yugoslav deputy minister of industry and energy.

The meetings dealt with discussion of financial and economic issues between the two friendly countries.

The Iraqi side in the committee comprises representatives from the Ministries of Finance, Defence, Oil and Trade and the Central Bank, while the Yugoslav side comprised representatives from the similar ministries.

Daily Advises Iran To Abandon 'Blackmail' Course

JN1001121789 Baghdad INA in English 1100 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad, Jan. 10, INA—An Iraqi paper has advised the rulers of Iran to abandon the course of blackmail, pressure and aggression pursued by them as well as by their predecessors to obtain regional gains at the expense of Iraq and its legitimate and natural rights.

AL-JUMHURIYAH daily, in an article published here today, said it was Iran which buried 1975 agreement and abrogated it in words and deeds. Since coming to power in Iran, the Khomeynists kept deploring 1975 agreement, deriding and describing it as "suspicious," AL-JUMHURIYAH said.

Several statements against recognizing 1975 agreement were made by Iran's tyrant Khomeyni, his son-in-law Sadeq Tabtaba'i, then interior undersecretary, president of the Iranian Government and General Falahi, Iranian assistant chief-of-staff, the daily mentioned.

At that time, the paper remarked, Iranian officials used to consider the agreement invalid due to changes in circumstances, for they used to say that 1975 agreement was concluded at the time of the shah, using this as a pretext not to recognize the agreement.

Iran actually violated the agreement when it refused to give the land occupied by it to Iraq... when it aired threats against Iraq... threatened to occupy it... massed troops on its border... summoned sons of Barzani from the U.S.A. and prompted them to have recourse to terrorist, subversive acts of theirs, AL-JUMHURIYAH mentioned.

Reviewing how the Iranian regime shrugged off the responsibility of implementing items of 598 Resolution of the Security Council, AL-JUMHURIYAH said the Iranian regime obstructed the implementation of the resolution and kept going around its provisions.

The regime of Iran dealt selectively with Resolution 598 and continued to arouse minor points, citing them as obstacles to hinder materialization of the international resolution, the daily noted.

Iraq and Iran "are now vis-a-vis new circumstances... it is no longer logical or permissible to view 1975 agreement as an invalid one," AL-JUMHURIYAH daily said.

Calling for concluding a new agreement based on justness and fairness not on blackmail and unjustness, the paper stressed that the new agreement was hoped to fully settle pending issues between the two countries by opening a new chapter in relations between Iraq and Iran.

Paper Assails Syrian Proposal on Lebanon

JN1201092889 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Jan (INA)—Today, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH vehemently assailed a Syrian proposal to form an Arab committee to hold contacts with the Lebanese parties and discuss the Lebanese problem. The paper says the proposal pushes the Lebanese problem into dark corners.

In an editorial today, AL-THAWRAH affirms that [Syrian Foreign Minister] Faruq al-Shar's statements in this regard imply exposed political falsehoods and clearly reveal the Syrian regime's insistence on preventing any sincere, genuine Arab endeavor to resolve the Lebanese problem and save the Lebanese Arab people from their hard ordeal, from which they have been suffering for more than 12 years.

AL-THAWRAH says the Syrian regime is trying to make the partition of Lebanon a reality by proposing the formation of this committee. Such a committee cannot crystallize a comprehensive, integrated view on the Lebanese situation by holding contacts with all parties in order to resolve the Lebanese problem.

AL-THAWRAH also assails the Syrian foreign minister's remarks about what he calls reforms on which the Lebanese may agree. The paper says the Syrian regime is trying to impose a president on Lebanon apart from the will of the Lebanese people and through a suspect agreement with a foreign country. It warns that the Syrian regime is also trying to gain time at the expense of Lebanon's fragmentation while maintaining the Lebanese problem and the Syrian occupation of Lebanon. This occupation is shackling the will of the Lebanese Arab people and preventing them from exercising their right to choose a new president of the republic.

AL-THAWRAH affirms that the exposed falshoods of the Syrian regime's foreign minister cannot conceal facts from the Arab states, whose foreign ministers will meet in Tunis today. These facts are tangible and clear, as is the subversive, criminal Syrian role in Lebanon. The paper stresses that the Syrian regime is held responsible for the anomalous, aggravating situation in Lebanon. This regime still insists on pursuing its antipan-Arab, deviant course, which seriously threatens pan-Arab security.

AL-THAWRAH adds that a correct, urgent solution to the Lebanese problem requires the Arab League to create an appropriate atmosphere for the Lebanese people freely to elect a president of the republic according to the Constitution. The paper explains that another necessary measure is to provide a free atmosphere for the Lebanese people to arrive at reforms through a fraternal, democratic dialogue. However, such a dialogue cannot take place unless the Syrian forces depart Lebanon.

The paper emphasizes that all Arab countries shoulder a historic responsibility toward Lebanon. It urges today's Arab League Council meeting to adopt a daring, firm, and unified stand toward the Syrian regime and its suspect views and to end this regime's occupation of Lebanon.

Shamir on Peace Plans, U.S. Dialogue With PLO

TA1301092489 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 13 Jan 89 pp 4, 13

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by diplomatic correspondent Menahem Shalev "this week;" place not given]

[Excerpts] [Shalev] There have been many reports in recent days on your peace proposals, including some surprising new elements.

[Shamir] I stand by my principles, but I am seeking various ways of getting to negotiations, without straying from the principles. The main thing is to get to negotiations. I know very well that the road from negotiations to a settlement is a long one, but if we don't start down this road, we will never reach an agreement. So I am trying, I am examining.

To come today with a ready-made plan would be a waste of ideas, of our arsenal of ideas, because it is almost inevitable that any proposal I will make today will run into Arab refusal, and when the Arabs say they do not accept the plan, that's it. The plan will have ended its life.

So first of all I want to check: Does the plan, or do components of a plan, have a chance not only among the Arabs, but internationally, for example with the Americans. It's not that I'm spreading rumours, I am checking, and I hope that in the end we will achieve something in this way. [passage omitted]

[Shalev] Do your thoughts include ideas on the final settlement, or just the launching of negotiations and perhaps an interim solution?

[Shamir] No, I am thinking in complete frameworks, but I do not think that it is worthwhile today to make any plan public, because this will kill it off. The publicity will kill it off. They will say "no," and that's it. And when there is no more plan, and they will demand yet another one—how many plans can we come up with? I am considering various alternatives. If we were on the verge of serious negotiations, then we would go in specific directions.

[Shalev] What is the time limit?

[Shamir] It could be that I will propose certain ideas, or even more than that, when I go to Washington.

[Shalev] Is that the essential first step, coordination with the U.S.?

[Shamir] That is a crucial discussion, because the U.S. is our most trusted friend in the international arena. But I must say that their recent step with the PLO caused grave damage to peace, grave damage to us. I think they prolonged the intifadah [uprising]. I don't know for how long, but it gave a great push and great encouragement to people who perhaps had reached a point where they were considering desisting from this way. But here they saw that there are rewards, that there is compensation for their sacrifices, and I am surprised that the Americans did not think about this in advance.

It has worked against all of the principles that we stood for in the fight against terror, which the Americans participated in, especially the principle that we have to prove to those engaged in terror that they cannot achieve anything in their ways. By doing this the Americans showed them that they can achieve something. It's conceivable that they were on the verge of a breaking point, and this gave them a push to go on. Still, we have no better friends than the Americans, and the Americans still enjoy more trust from us and certain Arab elements than any other international element. [passage omitted]

U.S. Dialogue Aids Uprising

TA1301114789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir believes that the U.S. decision to launch a dialogue with the PLO has boosted the more than 1-year-old uprising in the territories. In his opinion, the uprising is one of the chief obstacles to ending the Middle East conflict. In a conversation with U.S. Congressman Joe Kennedy, Mr Shamir expressed the hope that the United States will reconsider its decision and find a way to amend it.

Replying to the guest's question on what Israel is willing to do for the Arab refugees, the prime minister said that he is ready to participate in an international conference dealing with the solution of the refugee problem. Mr Shamir defined the problem as a human tragedy for which the Arab countries are to be blamed.

Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that today the prime minister received a farewell message from U.S. President Reagan, who will end his term in office in 1 week. President Reagan expressed his wish for the prime minister to find the right way to lead Israel to peace with its neighbors while safeguarding Israel's interests.

Involvement in Amal-Hizballah Clashes Denied

TA1101152789 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1430 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said today that Israel is not involved in the fighting between Amal and Hizballah. In a conversation with our correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz, the minister added that there have been no contacts between the Amal Movement and the IDF regarding the battles raging north of the security zone.

[Begin Rabin recording] Generally, during periods of fighting between two Lebanese elements, there is at least a temporary weakening in their ability to take action—if that is indeed their intention—against targets in the security zone; all the more so, against targets in Israel. Since attacks against targets within Israel are perpetrated mainly by the Palestinians, the fighting between Amal and Hizballah does not necessarily influence their ability to take such actions. [end recording]

Channels for PLO Funding of Uprising Detailed

TA1301114989 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
13 Jan 89 pp A1, 2

[Report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef]

[Text] Senior Israeli Arab political elements and religious figures belonging to various religious denominations—including Jews—all serve as channels for the transfer of PLO moneys to finance the intifadah [uprising].

The findings [not further specified] include the following data:

—Two Arab public figures from the Galilee have received several million dollars each for transfer.

—Large amounts of money have been transferred through a Nazareth institution.

—Hamas (the Islamic Resistance Movement) transfers funds via Israeli Arab merchants who are religious zealots.

—East Jerusalem newspapers receive PLO money through businessmen who allegedly make legitimate deals with these papers.

—A Jordanian notable who occasionally visits the territories is suspected of bringing in large amounts.

—In the past year, Egyptian elements have transferred hundreds of thousands of Egyptian pounds for the intifadah. The London-based weekly AL-DUSTUR recently contended that Israeli-Egyptian relations were marred by some degree of tension after the Israeli security services discovered that Egypt had assumed responsibility for the transfer of PLO funds to the territories. The weekly said that the person in charge of the funds is none other than Usamah al-Baz, President Mubarak's aide.

—Bene Beraq and Me'a She'arim [ultraorthodox neighborhoods] Jews transfer PLO money to the rebels, charging 25 percent fees. The money reaches them in the guise of donations for yeshivas. Only 25 percent of the amount, however, remains in the yeshiva, with the rest going to the causes intended by the Palestinian donor.

—Christian clerics have recently fallen under suspicion, mainly after the apprehension of Armenian Church head 'Ajamian, who was suspected of acts of this nature.

Experts believe that, in fact, the most serious opening for the transfer of money to the territories is not from the east (Jordan) or the south (Egypt), but from the west. It is suspected that part of the money reaches its destination via Ben-Gurion Airport, which processes a vast number of tourists, some of them undercover PLO men and pro-Palestinian senior officials in international organizations who collect money abroad for their cause.

Thus, the Arab Association for Aid in Geneva, which has a registered capital of $100 million, has been mentioned as a significant channel transferring funds to the Palestinian Women's Union and to workers' organizations in the territories, as well as to the nationalistic Sons of the Village organization active in Israel.

It is suspected that other funds find their way to the territories through UNRWA, the Quakers, the Jerusalem Fund (the Arab fund for Jerusalem,) and other relief agencies. Peter Gopser [name as published], formerly active in the Quaker organization, announced in Geneva some time ago that the donations to Palestinians have doubled in the past year and will reach $4 million.

Appointment of New Mosad Chief Examined

TA1301114689 Tel Aviv HA'R in Hebrew
13 Jan 89 pp 10, 11, 12

[Report by Aluf Ben]

[Summary] "The appointment most widely spoken about in knowledgeable circles will be made far from the refurbished offices of the ministers and the public eye. The head of the Mosad is about to complete his term after more than 6 years of service, and the race to replace him has reached its final stages.

"Many rumors have spread over the past year about the upcoming transition, which was withheld for several months because of the elections. The Mosad chief is appointed by the prime minister. Therefore, Yitzhaq Shamir will now have to select and decide. Let us hope that the choice will be influenced more by the candidate's qualifications than by his views or close ties with various associates, thus avoiding a compromise that will perpetuate the mediocrity now in the post."

Given the kind of missions the Mosad must carry out, its chief has "enormous powers and authority." And although by comparison the chief of the IDF General Staff commands a larger body, the chief of the Mosad enjoys greater freedom of action thanks to secrecy and censorship. The person who heads the Mosad must therefore be a well-rounded man who, in addition to all his other talents, must also "know how to contend with blunders, which always happen." It is not always easy to

find such a man. The current head of the Mosad "faithfully represents the bureaucratic aspect of the job. He started out as a rank-and-file Shin Bet officer, who moved on to the Mosad sometime in the fifties and advanced slowly until he reached the top." A gray figure, he nevertheless made it, thanks, among other things, to the death of one potential candidate, and a dispute between David Kimche, former Foreign Ministry director general and another candidate for the post; and Yitzhaq Hofi, the Mosad chief at the time.

A genial, meticulous person by friends' account, he is very "amicable when necessary" although "extremely exacting" at work.

The Mosad has known a series of foul-ups since its establishment in 1951, among the latest of which is the Lebanon war fiasco. The Mosad was in favor of the operation, but it ultimately killed Hofi's career. The fight to succeed him began several months before the end of his term in the summer of 1982. The question of whether "an experienced man from within" or a man from the outside should be appointed to the post has long been a bone of contention "whenever it is time to appoint a new Mosad chief." Each school of thought raises valid arguments, although a strong one against the appointment of an insider is "that this would perpetuate the secrecy under which the body operates and further limit the possibility of criticizing it, which is in any case tightly controlled."

In comparison, the Shin Bet has to date successfully fended off any appointment from the outside, despite the bus No 300 fiasco and the public outcry against the appointment of another insider as chief. "In the Mosad, on the other hand, things happened differently." The prime ministers consistently preferred to elect an outsider. Menahem Begin wanted to appoint IDF Major General Yequti'el Adam, but he was killed in Lebanon in July 1982. Thus, "Begin, who had already passed his heyday, was forced to reach a quick decision on another chief. He chose the deputy head of the Mosad, whom Hofi had also recommended. That man was not known to be ambitious and did not seem to be threatening anyone. The political echelon was tired of the know-it-alls, preferring a compromise candidate. The deputy's lackluster character and myopic vision helped tip the scales in his favor."

The Sabra and Shatila massacre occurred barely days after the new chief entered office, and he soon found himself facing the Kahan commission. "Although it was impossible to gloss over the Mosad men's deep involvement in Lebanon, the chief managed to sneak through the holes in the net. What do people want of him, said the final report, he has only just entered office! Others paid the price.

"The stinging fiasco in Lebanon, which stained Hofi's name, and the Kahan Commission's report showed the Mosad chief how tenuous his hold on his position was. Indeed, as time went by, it seemed that under his leadership things in the Mosad were going into low gear. There was no need to rush things. The secret service, which had won world acclaim for its daring operations, seemed to have aged. Its new chief was disinclined to initiate moves, preferring to keep his ship safely anchored." So deep was his aversion to seeing the boat rock that he was willing to overlook three clear cases in which "his territory was encroached upon." These were the war in Lebanon and the Pollard and Irangate affairs. Upon the death of Bashir al-Jumayyil, liaison with the Lebanese passed on to the Foreign Ministry and David Kimche, the Mosad chief's "nemesis;" after Pollard was exposed, tried, and imprisoned, the Mosad chief "claimed he was not in the know."

"If he truly knew nothing, what kind of professional was he? If he did, he should have immediately terminated Pollard's activity. But did he really know nothing?"

In the Iran affair, then Prime Minister Peres "preferred to conduct the weapons sales via his aides and through outsiders. The Mosad was not involved." Its chief therefore pleaded innocence, although "the truth was that he knew about the specifics of the deal right from the start, but preferred to turn a blind eye and refrain from warning of the dangers involved in the operation. He seemed to prefer to let someone else get bogged down in this affair (as indeed happened, naturally)."

"Even before Irangate the Mosad chief battled with 'Amiram Nir, who was appointed the prime minister's antiterror adviser," and took a series of actions to "isolate" Nir. Even in the Mosad, "the chief demonstrated an impressive level of manipulation and fighting ability within the bureaucracy" opposite two of his colleagues "who cast a heavy shadow" on him from the moment he entered office: "N., a highly ambitious man who was in charge of the Lebanon file;" and Shmu'el Goren, "whose professional qualifications were impeccable." The chief first "honored" them and sang their praises to obtain promotions for them, apparently thinking this would "neutralize their ambitions." It worked, and they were promptly kicked upstairs to nonthreatening positions.

His manipulation also helped the Mosad chief in his relations with his superiors. "Although his political views are not known, he is not considered a Likud supporter. Nevertheless, he is believed to have gotten along better with Shamir than with Peres." The policy seemed to work for him as far as his personal "survival" was concerned. But although he retained his job, the "ricochets from the explosions in his colleagues' courts reached his turf, too. After years in which it enjoyed an unassailable image of a success story, questions were beginning to pop up" about the Mosad, and its heroes were seen in a "different, more earthly light." If the entire intelligence community was sometimes flawed, the Mosad was no exception, itself being part of that community. Yet there is merit in airing such debacles.

"They provide the only channel by which it is possible to peep inside the services' operations. The success stories are always kept a family secret."

The only aspect that can be criticized about the Mosad is "its structure and the relationship between the service and the intelligence community as a whole on the one hand, and the political echelon on the other." In Israel, only "public exposure can somewhat shake the intelligence services from their ennui." The IDF's Intelligence Branch underwent such a purge after the Yom Kippur war through the Agranat commission's report, and the Shin Bet cleansed itself after the bus No 300 incident and the Kahan report. Thanks to the tight censorship, "the Mosad has not yet undergone such a shake-up." Even the press respects the censorship rules when it comes to the Mosad.

While its chief fanatically avoided the press, all the same, "It was precisely during his 6-year term at the top that the veneer of glamor that has shielded the Mosad since its establishment began to show cracks." It zealously refrained from reacting even to the "innumerable" foreign press reports, including some on the Vanunu case and on alleged weapons deals with the PRC. But when Britain proclaimed five Mosad people personae non grata, "the whole world knew about it." The London "imbroglio" "cast a shadow" on the final days of the Mosad chief's tenure.

Mosad heads usually serve between 5 and 10 years. After approximately 5 years since he assumed office, the battle of succession for the current chief's position began. The chief did not have any reason "to fret. His survivability skills guaranteed that he would remain on the job for as long as he wanted." Though a date for his replacement was often mentioned, "that date passed, and the man and the community are still awaiting the changeover."

"His replacement will receive a worn-out body, craving activity and torn by a mid-life crisis. He will have to effect a major housecleaning, starting at the bottom and going all the way up to the top, to revive the old spirit. Nor will he be able to continue to skirt a serious public debate on the relations between the Mosad and the state and the public which it must, in the final analysis, serve."

Comment on Successor's Tasks

TA1301121489 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 13 Jan 89 pp 1, 6

[Report by Ron Ben-Yishay]

[Text] The decision as to who will be the next head of the Mosad will be taken in the next few days, possibly tomorrow or the day after.

The person replacing the current head of the Mossad will be a compromise between Yitzhaq Shamir, who favors a candidate from within the Mosad; Yitzhaq Rabin, who prefers a man from the outside; and Shim'on Peres, who has not yet decided whom to support.

Research conducted by YEDI'OT AHARONOT refutes the claim alleging that Shamir decided to oust the current head of the Mosad several months ago. It reveals that the Mosad chief himself decided to retire and proposed so to the prime minister, who is his direct superior.

The current slump the Mosad finds itself in is the result of a lack of inquiry and failure to draw personal conclusions from a series of failures and mishaps over the past 8 years—first and foremost on the role the Mosad played in the military initiative in Lebanon. These are the claims of knowledgable sources in the intelligence community and the Mosad itself.

According to them all, prime ministers from Begin to Shamir have neglected supervision over the Mosad and, as a result, so did the Knesset. This fact, coupled with exaggerated caution and a passive attitude on the part of the head of the Mosad, brought about an erosion in the level of performance of several Mosad units. A devaluation in the Mosad's prestige and status abroad has also occurred, a fact that threatens its ability to acquire essential information.

"Certain parts of the operational level today need a shake-up, and the Mosad as a whole could use fresh and different thinking. This will be the task of the next head of the Mosad," a senior government source said yesterday. This source believes that the reports concerning the current head of the Mosad are badly exaggerated and do not take into account the many successes the man has to his credit in his present and previous positions.

He also criticized the censorship for playing up the wrong issue, thus "placing the Mosad in the center of a public storm."

Egypt Denies Not Issuing Visas to Israelis

TA1301105089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Text] The Egyptian Embassy in Israel adamantly denies having been requested by the Foreign Ministry in Cairo to abstain from issuing visas to Israeli tourists in the forthcoming months. An embassy spokesman told our correspondent Aharon Barne'a that visas are being issued as usual. His remarks were in reaction to a report in the Beirut publication AL-SHIRA', according to which the embassy had been requested not to issue visas after nearly 2,000 Israelis had flooded Egypt during the Christian holidays, forcing the security authorities to put them under heavy guard.

Bulgaria Signs Agreement on Goods Purchases

TA1201121289 Tel Aviv HA'RETZ in Hebrew 12 Jan 89 p 16

[Report by Doron Sonsino]

[Text] A Bulgarian trade delegation visiting Israel has signed an agreement for the purchase of Israeli-made goods to the tune of some $18 million.

The delegation met with Energy and Infrastructure Minister Moshe Shahal yesterday and asked him to check the possibility of Bulgaria paying for the goods with USSR coal.

Shahal ordered the director general of the national oil company to find out whether USSR coal meets the Israel Electric Corporation's requirements.

Atanas Atanasov, the head of the Bulgarian delegation, said that beginning January, Bulgarian firms are permitted to make direct contacts with outside producers and buyers. Atanasov handed Minister Shahal an official invitation to visit Bulgaria.

The Bulgarian delegation showed great interest in Israel's solar energy industry. It will visit solar energy sites to study what Israel has to offer.

Settlers Castigate Shamir at Memorial Service

TA1201142689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Excerpts] An uproar broke out in the settlement of Har Berakha when the prime minister arrived to participate in a memorial service for two murdered settlers: Ya'aqov Parag and Arthur Herstog. One of the placards criticizing him said: Shamir, are you not aware that you are setting up a Palestinian state? Another sign read: Traitor—you have betrayed your friends. Catcalls were heard from the audience accusing the prime minister of responsibility for the murder of settlers. [passage omitted]

The hosts tried to restore order and even tore a sign out of the hands of one of the demonstrators.

At the ceremony at Har Berakha the prime minister said that murder, the throwing of stones, and firebombs will not prevent us from redeeming the country. Internecine hatred or war, however, is the greatest danger to the Israeli people.

Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories

More on 12 Jan Incidents

TA1301094389 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 13 Jan 89 p 1

[Report by Mikhal Sela']

[Text] Two Palestinians died yesterday and at least 28 were wounded during clashes with IDF soldiers in the territories.

At the same time, prisoners at the Qezi'ot detention centre in the Negev continued a hunger strike for the fourth day yesterday.

In Tulkarm, a 12-year-old boy, Ahmad 'Abd al-Sakam, was shot yesterday and died later of his wounds in Nabulus Rafidiyah hospital. Hundreds of residents went out onto the streets with Palestinian flags as they learnt of the death of another youth, Marwan al-Madani, 17, who had died in Jerusalem's Al-Maqasid hospital on Wednesday night of wounds sustained on January 1. At least nine people were wounded, three of them seriously when soldiers dispersed the demonstrations, Palestinian sources said. They reported that 60 people were also treated for light injuries at the UNRWA clinic in Tulkarm. At least two wounded Palestinians were arrested in Tulkarm refugee camp, a Palestinian source said.

The Civil Administration yesterday renewed payments for the treatment of "uprising injuries" in West Bank hospitals. Previously only those with Civil Administration medical insurance were covered. Others received only first aid free. The new arrangement covers treatment in local hospitals only.

Residents yesterday attacked with burning tyres, the Tulkarm house of Sa'id 'Abd Rabu, suspected of collaboration with Israeli sources. His daughter Miyada, 18, was slightly wounded.

Another attack on a suspected collaborator occurred in Nabulus, when Nassir Ayrut, 20, was shot at 8:30 in the morning in the town square.

In Hebron, three Palestinians were wounded, one 16-year-old boy seriously, in clashes with troops, the IDF said. Palestinians said however that four were wounded and that at least part of the shooting came from a settler.

In the Gaza Strip, Palestinian sources put the number of wounded yesterday at eight while the IDF spokesman said four were injured. Fifteen-year-old Muhammad al-Sahluk from Al-Nusayrat refugee camp was transferred to Al-Maqasid hospital with serious gunshot wounds in his head.

Under the motto "Our life is in danger," prisoners at the Qezi'ot detention centre in the Negev yesterday entered the fourth day of a hunger-strike. They said they were protesting against the injury of two prisoners against the injury of two prisoners on Sunday night during a disturbance in Division-7 as well as the living conditions at the facility. An IDF spokesman confirmed one injury.

Advocate Mary Rock, who visited her clients jail there on Monday and Wednesday, told THE JERUSALEM POST that both wounded are in their tents with no medical care, despite the cold weather.

Prisoners in other divisions of the jail joined the hunger strike over their lack of information about the happenings in Division-7, she said. At the same time, the prisoner's committee handed the authorities a list of demands for improving their conditions. The prisoners complained about lack of food and warm clothes for the winter and said there were puddles in their tents. They are also demanding a canteen, radios tuned to Arabic stations, separation between the administative detainees and the convicted prisoners and the transfer of veteran detainees to better prisons.

According to Rock, the jail authorities have refused to negotiate with the prisoners' committee until they stop the strike.

Firebomb 'Squad' Exposed

TA1301065689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Excerpt] The curfew in the East Jerusalem village of Silwan is entering its 2d day. In a series of police arrests yesterday, a gang of firebomb throwers was uncovered. Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports:

For several months now, the police have been anxious to apprehend the squad believed to be responsible for a number of Molotov cocktails hurled in different sections of East Jerusalem. Yesterday, the 1st day of the curfew in Silwan, the squad, numbering nine suspects, was apprehended.

The Jerusalem police were satisfied with the results of the 1st day of the curfew. Most of the names on the wanted list belong to the 20 suspects rounded up so far.

Satisfaction was also expressed over the fact that no attempts to violate the curfew were recorded yesterday in Silwan. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 13 January in a report by Andy Court and Dan Izenberg on page 22 adds that Jerusalem Police Chief Yosef Yehuday "described the operation as the most intensive effort since the beginning of the intifadah [uprising] to quell unrest in one of the city's most rebellious Arab neighbourhoods."]

Firebombs in East Jerusalem

TA1201152089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] Two firebombs were thrown this afternoon at a bus parked at the central bus station in East Jerusalem. There were no casualties and no damage was caused.

'Improved' Rubber Bullet Proves Equally Fatal

TA1201110889 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 12 Jan 89 p 2

[Report by Mikhal Sela]

[Excerpt] In its efforts to find less harmful means to put down demonstrations in the territories, the IDF recently introduced a new type of bullet. But the new weapon seems to be proving as harmful and fatal as some of the others introduced during the past year.

It is a round, nut-size metal bullet, wrapped with a thin rubber cover and is termed by soldiers "the improved rubber bullet." It is shot either from a rifle with a special magazine or from a cannon-car similar to the gravel shooting cannon, hatsatsit. According to a military expert who asked not to be named, it has a longer range than the old type of rubber bullet.

The advantage of the new weapon is that it is causes pain but will not explode inside the body.

Nevertheless, 15-year-old Farid al-Maghazi from Al-Nusayrat refugee camp in the Gaza Strip was, according to Palestinian medical sources, killed on November 26 when such a bullet hit his head. His family told reporters that the army had confiscated medical documents and X-rays which they had received from the hospital.

Eight-year-old Ashraf Abu-'Amar, from Rafah, was shot in the face by a metal-rubber bullet on December 7 when the army was quelling a demonstration. X-rays handed to THE JERUSALEM POST showed that the bullet had lodged a few centimeters below the skin of his face. Yusri Abu-Namun from Jabalyah was also reportedly wounded in the face by the same type of ammunition about two months ago.

Questioned by THE POST, the army spokeswoman said yesterday that "the IDF as a rule neither comments nor gives details about ammunition used by the army." [passage omitted]

New IDF Appointments Announced 13 Jan

TA1301115489 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 13 Jan 89 p A4

[Report by military correspondent Dan Sagir]

[Excerpts] Brigadier General Ilan Biran will be appointed head of the Quartermaster Branch in the General Staff today and will receive the rank of major general. Gen Biran will replace Maj Gen Menahem 'Eynan, who is retiring from active service. [passage omitted]

Gen Yequti'el Mor, chief liaison to the foreign forces, was appointed the defense minister's military secretary. He is replacing Gen Elqana Har-Nof, who is going on vacation until assigned a new IDF post. The chief liaison officer to UN units on the Syrian border, UNIFIL units in Lebanon, and MFO in Sinai has not yet been appointed.

Gen Mikha'el Navon was appointed financial adviser to the chief of the General Staff.

15-Percent Drop in Tourism Reported

TA1301094489 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 13 Jan 89 p 18

[Report by Pinhas Landau]

[Text] Tourism to Israel fell 15 percent in 1988 compared with the previous year, with 1.17 million arrivals recorded, a decline of 210,000 from 1987's record total.

However, last year's figures were still 6 percent better than the crisis year of 1986, according to figures published by the Central Bureau of Statistics yesterday.

These latest statistics show that there has been no improvement in the tourism picture so far, despite the increased efforts of travel agents and hotels, as well as the Tourism Ministry, to reverse the decline brought on by the intifadah [uprising].

The slide in tourism began in earnest in March 1988, and the bureau noted that the average number of monthly arrivals in the second quarter ran at about 90,000, compared to nearly 125,000 in late 1987 and early 1988. In the third and fourth quarters there was a marginal improvement, but the overall trend remains depressed.

The 1988 numbers were boosted past the 1.3 million mark, when tourists visiting in cruise ships are included in the statistics. These numbered 129,000, only 10,000, or 7 percent less than in 1987.

For December alone, tourist arrivals totalled 88,000, as against 112,400 in the same month in 1987, and also well below the December 1986 arrivals rate.

Large Haul of Heroin Seized at Airport

TA1201141789 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 12 Jan 89 p 1

[Report by Mikha'el Rotem]

[Text] Ramla—Heroin valued at NIS [New Israeli Shekels] 12 million was seized at Ben-Gurion Airport last week and five suspects were arrested. Yesterday a court order banning publication of the matter expired.

Nitzav [commander] Enosh Giv'ati, chief of the Central Police District told a news conference yesterday that the drugs had been brought from Germany. The police are still looking for the "bankers" who financed the deal, he said.

The 9.3 kgs. of heroin were seized at noon on January 4 by intelligence officers of the Ben-Gurion Airport Police. The drugs were hidden inside an item of cargo, the nature of which was not disclosed. This amount of "Persian Coke," an adulterated version of heroin, would have supplied 150,000 portions, each of which would have cost the addict about NIS 80. A heavy addict might use as many as 10 portions a day.

The illicit cargo was allegedly destined for Yefim Yasinovsky, 52, of Rishon Le Ziyyon who was remanded in custody for 15 days by the Rehovot Magistrates Court last Friday. On Tuesday, four additional suspects were arrested, two from Bat Yam and two from Ramla. All are known to the police. A remand hearing will be held in Rehovot today. Giv'ati estimated that about 30 percent of the heavy drugs smuggled into Israel come through the airport. He promised that the airport police department would step-up their operations, both open and undercover.

Shamir Plan 'Rigid on the Ashes of Camp David'

TA1201174389 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 11 Jan 89 pp 1, 12

[Editorial: "Shamir and the Old Plan"]

[Text] When the Netherlands, one of Israel's closest friends, launched its first official dialogue with the PLO two days ago in Tunis, at the same place in which the PLO's first dialogue with the United States took place, the Israeli Government "leaked" more information and details about its peace plan in the region. Apparently the Israeli Government believes that this propaganda "leak" will suffice to impede the Palestinian peace initiative that has managed to reach all the countries of the world, including those that are the friends and allies of Israel itself.

The problem with this plan bearing the name of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, however, is that just like other Israeli political plans and programs, it is still immersed in the Camp David labyrinth. It pays no heed

to the new reality represented by the political changes in the region and the entire world. This is the living reality on which the Palestinian initiative is based, with utmost clarity and full historical conviction in the inevitability of achieving a political settlement to the Palestinian problem that will ensure peace, justice, and fairness to all the parties concerned.

The Israeli newspaper, THE NATION, yesterday published in its issue "selections" of this Shamirian plan that the paper says will constitute the crux of Shamir's talks with U.S. President George Bush in March. One can immediately see that on the one hand this plan is not serious, and on the other it seeks only to create a propaganda momentum against the Palestinian initiative. The published selections do not embrace any of the political changes that have taken place. They revolve in circles around the Camp David accords, which are no longer recognized by anyone including Egypt and the United States since they achieved their previous objective ten years ago.

Thus, Shamir's plan will not go beyond the propaganda rostrums. The problem has been and continues to be the Israeli position, which has remained rigid on the ashes of Camp David. This impedes the peace process, but at the same time pushes the other parties interested in peace to increase their pressure on the Israeli Government to really respond to the current language, the language of peace.

Reportage on U.S. Congressional Delegation's Visit

Al-Rifa'i Receives Delegation

JN1001141789 Amman Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i received in his office today a visiting American parliamentary delegation. Discussions at the meeting dealt with recent developments in the region, the Middle East problem, and bilateral relations.

Meanwhile, Minister of Information Dr Hani al-Khasawinah received in his office later in the day members of the visiting American delegation. The minister briefed them on current issues in the region, including efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East.

King Husayn Sees Delegation

JN1001171089 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn received at the Royal Hashemite Court this afternoon U.S. Senators Nancy Kassebaum and John McCain. His majesty also received the U.S. House of Representatives delegation, which is visiting the region, at the invitation of the World Affairs Council.

During the two meetings, his majesty reviewed the recent developments in the Middle East, expressing his optimism that the international approach toward peace and resolving the regional disputes prevailing in the world now should include the Middle East issue, and consequently, bring about just, comprehensive, and permanent peace in the region.

His majesty explained the dimensions of the decision to disengage the legal and administrative relationship with the West Bank. He noted that this decision has strengthened and reinforced relations between Jordan and the PLO.

King Husayn added that the new Palestinian approach is based on awareness and readiness to shoulder the responsibilities to achieve a just and peaceful settlement. The king affirmed that the Palestine question is the center of the conflict. He also asserted the importance of the Palestinian role in resolving the Middle East issue.

The U.S. delegations praised His Majesty King Husayn's continuous efforts to achieve a just and permanent peace in the region. In particular, they affirmed the position enjoyed by his majesty in the world quarters in light of his credibility and devotion in the service of the peace issues. The delegations' members affirmed the importance of U.S. support for these efforts.

The two meetings were attended by the chief of the Royal Court, his majesty the king's political adviser, his majesty's special adviser, and the U.S. ambassador in Amman.

AL-DUSTUR on Meeting

JN1101093689 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 11 Jan 89 pp 1, 17

[Editorial: "The New Palestinian Trend and Readiness To Shoulder Responsibility"]

[Text] During his reception of the members of the two U.S. Congressional delegations, King Husayn asserted the importance of the new Palestinian trend, which is based on awareness of and readiness to shoulder the responsibility of achieving a peaceful, just, and comprehensive settlement of the conflict in the Middle East.

This trend, recently expressed by the PNC resolutions in Algiers, clearly explained the readiness of the Palestinian Arab people to go ahead in achieving peace, and their strong desire to see a speedy end to all forms of distress, subjugation, and torture they are suffering at the hands of a foreign occupier, which does not respect any convention, treaty, or international law.

Perhaps the strong welcome with which the capitals of the West and the East have received this peaceful trend is a matter that greatly emphasizes the central nature of the Palestine question within the context of the Arab-Israeli conflict and confirms the importance of the Palestinian role in efforts being exerted to find a way out of the crisis and resolve it.

From this premise, Jordan, which received with deep satisfaction the positive response of the countries of the world to the recent Palestinian position and was very optimistic over opening the door of substantive dialogue between the United States and the PLO, believes in the need for exerting further international efforts at this stage to maintain the momentum of the recent positive developments and to place the Middle East in the context of the peaceful solutions prevailing in the world of today.

The just and comprehensive peace, for which Jordan has been calling and working in spite of all hardships, has now become a general Arab trend uniting all Arabs who supported the recent PNC resolutions, as Jordan did, on the basis that they express a sincere readiness and a strong and genuine position enjoying an unprecedented Palestinian and an overwhelming Arab support. This provides a unique opportunity to intensify the international efforts and bring all concerned parties in the crisis to the international conference table to achieve peace on the basis of international legitimacy and under the banner of the United Nations with the attendance of the five permanent members in the UN Security Council.

AL-RA'Y on Meeting

JN1201115289 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 12 Jan 89 pp 18, 16

["From the Present" column: "More Lack of Knowledge" by Ibrahim Abu Nab]

[Text] Finally, we have met with some members of the U.S. House of Representatives at the International Affairs Society, which invited them to visit this country. We were told ages ago that it was our duty to issue such invitations so that members of the U.S. Congress can learn something about the countries whose destiny they decide without knowing the most fundamental facts about them. One of the three congressmen sitting behind the rostrum in front of us and on both sides of Mr 'Ali Ghandur, the director of session, told us that 370 members of the U.S. House of Representatives have so far visited Israel, while the number of those who have visited Jordan did not exceed 50.

We were about to demand a quick invitation to all congressmen as soon as possible until we discovered from the speakers' statements that if God had known any good in them, he would have shown them the facts of this region during their visit to occupied Palestine alone, where any visitor can easily find out the facts. Their country has made for itself an idol, a golden calf named Israel, and begun to worship it and ally itself with it, saying it is concerned about its security and durability and that it will never allow anyone to threaten its security by any means. They consider the Palestinian struggle terrorism and the Israeli terrorists in power in Palestine democrats and respectable people, to whom the Americans are bound by the strongest ties.

What is surprising is that those three who sat in front of us, saying all these things, were not, as they said, close friends of Israel in the U.S. Congress. Indeed, they disagree with Israel over many issues. One of them, a Mormon from Utah, who in the past was the speaker of that state's House of Representatives, said that he did not know a people who think that they are always right in whatever they say or do like the Israeli Jews. A woman member, Mary Rose Oakar, whose ancestors immigrated from Lebanon to the United States, said bonds of blood and affection link her to the Middle East, but she did not see how the United States could possibly dismantle its relations with Israel. She said that the Arabs who want these relations ended or weakened are under an illusion. She also said that the best thing for the Arabs, her ancient ancestors, to do is to come closer to Uncle Sam, as Israel is doing (sic). A third one said that the bonds between the United States and Israel are so deep that the Arabs should better understand and adapt themselves.

Well, what about Palestine, the Palestine question, the uprising, the UN resolutions, etc.? One of them, a lawyer by profession, said that 'Arafat delighted the U.S. people when he recognized Israel's right to exist, as he said, and that this gave 'Arafat, or the PLO, the right to talk with the United States. However, he now has to prevent all the Palestinian factions from practicing terrorism; otherwise, the United States will not be obliged to continue the dialogue.

We asked him about the purpose of the dialogue with the United States. Is it not meant to drive Israel to accept the Palestinian right to self-determination? The man said something that he reiterated throughout the session. He said that if he knew that this was the purpose and that it was possible to achieve, he would call for it, win the Nobel prize for it, be elected president by the American people, and enter history as the greatest U.S. president.

The Mormon deputy said that they met in this region with people who wanted to teach them how to run their own country and how to spend their own money. I said to this deputy with some anger: Sir, we do not want to tell you how to run your country or how to spend your money, but it is our duty to tell you that you should spend it in a way that does not harm others. Every new U.S. president has given Israel as much money and as many tools of aggression as have all his predecessors. If Israel is practicing belligerence, then it is because of your support. How can you say that you want friends in the Middle East on the basis of this? You are greatly misleading yourselves or others.

At the end of the discussion, 'Ali Ghandur told them: You are going to Israel, and will undoubtedly meet with Shamir and Peres. Ask them if they accept Resolution No 242 after 'Arafat accepted it.

In fact, whether the members of the U.S. House of Representatives know it or not, they said all that they knew, always believing that they were right. So, invite the rest of the congressmen; perhaps we will know more about what they do not know.

King Husayn Sends Condolences on Hirohito's Death

JN0701174389 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 7 Jan 89

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has sent a cable to Emperor Akihito. The text of the cable follows:

Your Majesty Emperor Akihito: I have received with profound sorrow the report that your father, the late Emperor Hirohito, has passed away. The government and people of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan join me in extending the warmest heartfelt condolences to Your Majesty and to the Japanese Government and people on this sad occasion. They also recall with me the important role played by his majesty in running your country's affairs, as well as the distinguished status he occupied in the hearts of his people. His majesty was a bright symbol representing Japan's great heritage and your people's distinguished achievements.

While my country's government and people highly appreciate the relations of friendship and cooperation between our two countries, I find as a source of pleasure those meetings held between me and the great deceased. In those meetings I learned about his wisdom, experience, and foresight. It also pleases me to point to the growing ties between our two families. These ties are continuously enhanced with every visit we pay to your great country.

Labor Minister Receives ILO Fact-Finding Mission

JN0901211789 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 9 Jan 89

[Text] The Minister of Labor, Mr Marwan Dudin, has said that Israeli occupation authorities are applying arbitrary and repressive measures against Arab workers and businessmen in the occupied territories. Mr Dudin made the remarks at a meeting with the fact-finding mission of the International Labor Organization, the ILO, today. Israeli occupation authorities, he said, seek to uproot the Palestinians from their homeland and to destroy their social and economic fabric.

The minister appealed to the ILO to expose the Israeli practices to the world. The ILO mission arrived in Amman on a tour that would include Syria, Tunisia, Egypt, and the occupied Arab territories. The meeting was attended by the secretary general of the Ministry of Labor, a representative of the PLO, representatives of the Federation of the Jordanian Chambers of Commerce, workers' trade unions, and the Royal Committee for Jerusalem Affairs.

AL-RA'Y Comments on Paris Conference

JN1001114889 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 10 Jan 89 p 1

[Editorial: "Paris Conference"]

[Text] Nuclear and chemical weapons and other tools for killing truly contradict life itself and the fact that this earth should be under the canopy of justice, peace, and equality. Such weapons are both the product of man's tremendous development in the field of science and knowledge and of the inequitable mentality that has sought and continues to seek to dominate people, plunder their resources, and allow oppression and aggression to annihilate and destroy them.

In view of the discussions under way at the Paris conference on banning chemical weapons and the many speeches being delivered there, what should be said and followed up are the reasons for the tremendous development in military industries. Considering results alone is an obvious attempt to avoid these reasons. The Third World has not been only the first victim of this development, but also the laboratory in which the resulting experiments are being carried out. This is condemned by all moral and human standards. It is a deviation from all heavenly teachings; prevailing values; and the principles respecting man, calling for justice, rejecting terrorism, and considering the occupation of a man's land—or attempts to occupy it or to subjugate or attempt to subjugate man's will to political, economic, and cultural subservience—the true aggression on these teachings, values, and principles.

Killing a man is condemned, irrespective of the means used. In this regard, an old rifle, hand-to-hand fighting, nuclear bombs, and mustard gas are equal. Therefore, the debate at the Paris conference should not be on the most humane means to kill individuals and people but the most humane means to preserve life. It seems that the campaign that paved the way for the convocation of the conference has not stopped at this point but is seeking the condemnation of some Third World countries, against which the old and new forces of colonialism have used all the weapons of subjugation and destruction.

What is also required—so that these countries can match the level of their slogans and principles—is to resolve the many human problems such as poverty, famine, subjugation, organized terrorism, and all forms of siege and blackmail to which the countries of our Third World and their peoples are exposed as a result of the conflict between the superpowers. These superpowers manufacture nuclear and chemical weapons, using and benefiting from them at the expense of the aspirations, pains, and agonies of people here and there on our globe, which is plagued with unlimited ambitions and policies that do not respect man, values, and principles.

Arab Foreign Ministers Form Committee on Lebanon

NC1201210789 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Excerpt] The Arab foreign ministers held a 2-hour closed session in Tunis today to discuss the situation in Lebanon. The meeting ended at approximately 2100 after several resolutions had been adopted. The most significant resolution provides for the formation of an Arab committee under the chairmanship of Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad Al Sabah. The committee includes the foreign ministers of Jordan, the UAE, Algeria, Sudan, and Tunisia, as well as Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi.

The task of the committee is to approach all the Lebanese parties to explore their views and proposals on a solution to the Lebanese crisis. The committee will also exert efforts with these parties to achieve national reconciliation and urge them to cooperate with it to bring about the success of the mission entrusted to it by the Arab League Council. The committee will submit its report and recommendations to the council as soon as possible. The session will remain open for this purpose.

After the session, the committee met with Klibi to discuss its mode of action. The main question was whether the committee will proceed to Lebanon or will carry out its consultations with the Lebanese parties in an Arab capital. [passage omitted]

Al-Huss Cables Arab League on Council Meeting

NC1001185389 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] On the eve of the Arab League meeting, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has sent the following cable to Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi.

Brother Chedli Klibi, Arab League secretary general: On the eve of the meeting of the Arab League Council which is devoted to discussing the Lebanese issue, we wish to express our welcome of this meeting and to affirm to you Lebanon's position as follows:

1. The Lebanese Government had previously decided to attend the meeting, and there has been no change in this position. The Lebanese Foreign Ministry had officially informed the Arab League General Secretariat of Lebanon's approval of the date of the council meeting.

2. The absence of a Lebanese representative from the meeting because of the abnormal circumstances in Lebanon should not be interpreted as a boycott of the Arab League or as a refusal to attend the meeting.

3. The memoranda we previously sent to the General Secretariat represent the Lebanese Government's views on the reasons for the crisis and how it should be tackled.

4. We will watch the council meeting with interest hoping it will result in Arab efforts to assist Lebanon overcome its ordeal.

'Awn's Cabinet Sends Memo to Arab League

NC1001193589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] The Lebanese Cabinet, which met under Prime Minister Michel 'Awn today, declared that Lebanon will not participate in the Arab foreign ministers' conference in Tunis tomorrow. The cabinet decided on this step because of the unobjectivity which prevailed during the preparation for the conference, especially as the Arab League secretary general's tour bypassed the Lebanese legitimate authority, which is the only party qualified to define the real problem so that any discussion or treatment of the problem could be useful.

The cabinet contented itself with sending a memorandum to the Arab League General Secretariat explaining the government's position and containing a documented review of the Lebanese problem. The memorandum stresses that the presence of non-Lebanese forces in Lebanon has been and still is the source of the problem, the cause of its exacerbation, and the only obstacle preventing the unification of the Lebanese and the solution of their internal problem.

The memorandum also contains a detailed review of the status of the Syrian forces in Lebanon since they entered the country on 31 May 1976 and the stages which have accompanied their presence. At first they were Arab deterrent forces supplemented by token forces from other Arab countries and now they are just Syrian forces.

The memorandum states that the presence of the Syrian forces is an aggression against Lebanon, according to the definition of aggression under UN General Assembly Resolution No 3314 dated 14 November 1974. To prove that the Syrian forces are occupation forces, the memorandum mentions that the Syrian forces do not content themselves with being present on Lebanese territory. They also flagrantly interfere in all the state's institutions and utilities. This has paralyzed the work of these institutions, caused the posts of the president of the Republic and the speaker of parliament to remain vacant, and prevented some members of the government who live in the areas under occupation from joining the cabinet and exercising their authority. It has also led to the division of the Army, the internal security forces, the public security forces, and other institutions. Moreover, the Syrian forces now have control over the Central Bank of Lebanon.

The cabinet expresses hope that the Arab foreign ministers' conference will be a preparatory step for an Arab summit conference that will discuss how to oust non-Lebanese forces from Lebanon so that the Lebanese

people may restore their sovereignty and freedom of decision, reunify their institutions, and conduct the necessary reforms without any foreign intervention.

The cabinet expresses astonishment at the fact that some quarters are totally ignoring the non-Lebanese military presence, which has been and still is the cause of the Lebanese tragedy and the cause of every internal and external complication preventing an end to this tragedy.

Iranian Embassy on Amal-Hizballah Fighting

NC1301074189 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Text] Commenting on the ongoing clashes in Iqlim al-Tuffah between Birri's gunmen and the Islamic resistance mujahidin, the Embassy of the Islamic Republic in Beirut has issued a statment urging Hizballah and the Amal Movement to halt the destructive fighting in Beirut, the southern suburb, and Iqlim al-Tuffah. The embassy urged the two sides to cement their ranks because both belong to the same religion, same school, and same imam. Therefore, the Amal Movement and Hizballah must nip this heinous sedition in the bud.

In its statement, the embassy went on to say that the Islamic Republic, which represents the broadest and greatest base in the Islamic world and which has devoted itself to the service of Islam and God Almighty, announces through its embassy in Beirut that these battles are condemned and represent serious sedition. It appealed to all combatant sides to resort to peace and stop the bloodshed in order to preserve the pure souls who are falling as a result of the fighting.

The statement added that the embassy, which is authorized by Islamic shari'a, extends its hand to all the hands of devout people who are working hard to extinguish the fire of sedition. It will support every step that is trying to reconcile the two sides and end the war. The Embassy of the Islamic Republic belongs to all and is capable of listening to anyone to end this bloody dispute.

Islamic Amal Leader Appeals for Dialogue

NC1301095389 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Text] In an interview with our radio, Husayn al-Musawi [leader of Islamic Amal Movement and Hizballah figure], has declared that the oppressed in this country must realize that the conspiracy against the Islamic forces is designed first, to liquidate Hizballah and the Islamic resistance and second, to destroy the Shi'ite community in order to ruin resistance capabilities and pave the way for security arrangements with Israel.

Al-Musawi said that the Islamic resistance, currently the target of the arrogant forces, the enemies of God and the nation, is being subjected to a war of extermination that is being implemented in accordance with the promises given by some Shi'ites to purge Jabal 'Amil and western Al-Biqa' of every resisting rifle and pave the way for implementing UN Security Council Resolution 425 and signing security arrangements with the usurping Zionist entity.

Brother al-Musawi added: Those who have been entrusted with the task of eliminating the Islamic resistance are not embarrassed when they declare their evil aims. They would turn Iqlim al-Tuffah into a new Karbala' [reference to 7th century martyrdom of Al-Husayn ibn 'Ali ibn Abu Talib] unless Al-Husayn's followers give allegiance to America and make peace with the Jews. The Muslims have seen over the past 6 years how the sons of the Hizballah nation have overlooked numerous provocations and aggressions in an attempt to avoid reaching the situation in which we find ourselves today. They have proved their sole concern is the fight against Israeli and U.S. schemes. They have succeeded in defeating the NATO hordes and have imposed on themselves the prohibition of not fighting other Muslims unless the the banner of jihad and the progress of the Islamic resistance must be defended.

Brother al-Musawi continued: When Muslims learn that at a time when the resistance's positions in Iqlim al-Tuffah were under attack, the Islamic resistance offered approximately seven martyrs from among its pious sons in a confrontation with Israeli tanks while they were operating as part of the reconnaissance groups in the occupied area, the full truth will clear; namely, international arrogant powers' designs are directed against all Shi'ites and all struggling Muslims by involving them in internal conflicts or conflicts with other parties. Brother al-Musawi said: For this reason and in order to confront the gloating media campaign against the Shi'ites, which is accompanying the armed assaults, we urge all honorable and sincere individuals to stop being false witnesses to what is happening. We also urge the 'ulema and all the faithful to act out of their religious duty and not to take their personal interests and motives into account. We also ask them to seek to attain an immediate cease-fire and embark on a responsible dialogue that will lead to the establishment of unified, solid ranks that will fight Israel and liberate the land and the sanctities.

Brother al-Musawi addressed the faithful saying: We believe that whatever the circumstances and considerations, you will not allow harm to befall the Islamic resistance. The sons of the Islamic resistance who walked the path of individual martyrdom to defend Islam and the Muslims are entitled to your loyalty and entitled to urge you not to hesitate to undertake a collective martyrdom to defend the Islamic resistance. We urge that prompt, sober, and courageous initiatives be undertaken before it is too late. We appeal to all believers in one God, who give allegiance to God, his prophet, and the prophet's family, particularly our brothers the sons of Imam al-Sadr in the Amal Movement, that we all should exert pressure and move together to convene a meeting of salvation between His Eminences Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah and Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi

Shams al-Din, surrounded by all sincere 'ulema, so that they would issue a shari'a order binding on all and which would save the sons of Muhammad and 'Ali from the shame of this world and the shame of the hereafter.

General Strike Protests Amal-Hizballah Fighting

NC1301091689 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Text] A general strike is being observed in Beirut, the southern suburb, mountain areas, southern Lebanon, and Al-Biqa' in response to the Amal Movement's call to protest the ongoing internecine fighting in the South.

Reportage on Continued Amal-Hizballah Fighting

Amal Group 'Annihilated' in Jba'

NC1201202589 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] According to security reports, Hizballah members who are still in parts of Jba' township have, after bringing in reinforcements from the Al-Biqa' area, completely annihilated the Amal Movement group which entered the township this morning.

Meanwhile, intermittent clashes are continuing between Amal and Hizballah in Jba', 'Ayn Bu Siwar, Al-Luwayzah, and Jabal Safi in Iqlim al-Tuffah.

Amal Fails To Capture Jba'

NC1301075489 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Excerpts] Amal's statements, which consistently stress that the battles in Iqlim al-Tuffah must continue and which reject any attempt at reconciliation, whether the mediation is carried out by domestic or foreign parties, continue to be embodied on a daily basis through brutal assaults against the mujahidin's positions in that area

Areas in Iqlim al-Tuffah are currently the scene of intermittent clashes between Birri's gunmen and the mujahidin of the Islamic resistance. This comes in the wake of a series of failed attacks by Amal on Jba', carried out under cover of an artillery and rocket bombardment.

It has been reported that a unit belonging to the Birri groups infiltrated into a Jba' quarter, where the mujahidin are stationed, last night. The unit was discovered and was dealt with appropriately, resulting in the death of a number of its members and the capture of the remaining members of the unit.

Furthermore, according to security reports carried by various sources, the Hizballah mujahidin have not budged from the positions which they are holding securely, particularly in Jba' township, despite the intensive bombardment and repeated assaults carried out by Birri's Amal.

Meanwhile, the tone of Amal's so-called security officials in the South now sounds less determined than before to extricate Jba' from the hands of the defenders. During the past few days, the Amal officials pretended that they were waiting for an improvement in the weather and, at another time, they used the pretext of waiting for the completion of the required capabilities. [passage omitted]

Military experts have stated that it is impossible to capture Hizballah's positions. In order to justify the abject failure of the Birri groups' assaults, 'Ali Khuraysh, the so-called political official of Amal in the South, has admitted the existence of difficulties, which he attributed to geographical factors, which prevent the movement from attaining its satanic objectives.

Jba' Surrounded by Fire

NC1301090689 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Text] Amal and Hizballah positions in 'Ayn Bu Siwar, the outskirts of Jarju, Jabal Safi, Kafr Fila, 'Ayn Qana, and the surrounding villages are exchanging machinegun and heavy arms fire. The western, southern, and northern approaches to Jba' are currently the targets of sporadic shelling.

Fighting in Iqlim al-Tuffah

NC1301122189 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Excerpt] The situation has again become explosive between Amal and Hizballah in Iqlim al-Tuffah in the South. According to security reports, violent clashes have been raging in Jba', 'Ayn Bu Siwar, Al-Luwayzah, and Kafr Fila. The combatants are using machineguns, rockets, and artillery in the fighting, which has witnessed attacks and counterattacks by the gunmen of both parties. Neither side has succeeded in making any new advances in today's fighting. [passage omitted]

Israeli 'Warplanes' Fly Over Beirut 13 Jan

NC1301091089 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Text] Israeli warplanes conducted reconnaissance sorties over Beirut at 0930 today.

Antiaircraft Fire at Planes

NC1301102189 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Text] Antiaircraft fire was opened at a formation of Israeli planes flying over Beirut's southern suburb at 1120 today.

Al-Shar' Comments on Arab League Meeting, Lebanon

JN1201193889 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said that he believes that the Arab foreign ministers meeting on Lebanon will result in the formation of a follow-up committee that will not include Syria. He said the task of this committee will be to contact all parties in Lebanon. AFP cited Al-Shar' as saying that this committee will draw a common concept for the political reforms that should be introduced into the Lebanese political system in order to reach a national reconciliation and to elect a president of the republic.

The foreign minister added that Syria asked that it be excluded from the committee in order to allow the Arab brothers to acquaint themselves with the reality of the Lebanese crisis. He explained that the committee will submit proposals to the Arab League ministerial council.

European Parliamentary Delegation Arrives

JN1201151089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] A European parliamentary delegation led by Miguel Martinez, head of the Spanish parliamentary section, has arrived in Damascus. In an arrival statement, the delegation head said the purpose of the visit is to hold talks and get aquainted firsthand with regional issues prior to taking them up at European national parliaments.

Sees Assembly Speaker

JN1201184289 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah this afternoon received a parliamentary delegation from the Council of Europe under Miguel Martinez, head of the Spanish parliamentary section. Shakir Is'id, head of the Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee of the People's Assembly, assembly members, and the assembly secretary general attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed current issues and stands on them, as well as parliamentary issues of joint interest. The People's Assembly speaker expressed appreciation for Europe's stands on Arab issues. He answered questions by delegation members on the Middle East's most important issues, headed by the Palestine question. He affirmed that Syria supports the call for a UN-sponsored international conference for the establishment of peace in the Middle East to be attended by parties concerned, including the PLO, and the UN Security Council permanent members.

Qaddurah spoke about the Lebanese issue and affirmed that resolving this issue must depend on national accord among the Lebanese people.

Afterward, Martinez, head of the delegation, expressed his happiness and that of the delegation over visiting Syria. He explained the tasks of the parliamentary group of the Council of Europe, the objectives of the visit of the delegation, and political and party orientations in the group.

He referred to Syria's effective role and necessary contribution to any peace initiatives in this important area of the world. He expressed appreciation for the useful information and detailed explanations he heard from the People's Assembly speaker. He also stressed the importance of these meetings and visits, which help clarify matters from their direct sources.

Reportage on Visit of Omani State Minister

Arrives With Delegation

JN1001125789 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] Yusuf ibn 'Alawi 'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, and the delegation accompaying him arrived in Damascus at noon today. Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs, the directors of the Foreign Ministry's Arab Homeland and Protocol Departments, and the Omani ambassador in Damascus welcomed the Omani minister at the airport.

In a statement to SANA upon arrival, Yusuf ibn 'Alawi 'Abdallah said that the fraternal relations between the two fraternal countries have achieved great, excellent strides. He pointed out that the two fraternal countries aspire to enhance these relations further.

He explained that his visit to Syria is within the framework of brotherly consultations on the current state of affairs.

Meets With Al-Asad

JN1001174889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Yusuf ibn 'Alawi, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, at 1700 today. Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs; Ahmad ibn Yusuf al-Harithi, head of the Arab Department at the Omani Foreign Ministry; and the Omani ambassador in Damascus attended the meeting.

Talks With Al-Asad, Counterpart

JN1001214689 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 10 Jan 89

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Yusuf ibn 'Alawi, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, at 1700 today. Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs; Ahmad ibn Yusuf al-Harithi, head of the Arab Department at the Omani Foreign Ministry; and the Omani ambassador in Damascus attended the meeting. Yusuf ibn 'Alawi conveyed to the president the greetings

of Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id. The president accepted the greetings and asked Yusyf ibn 'Alawi to convey similar greetings to Sultan Qabus and the fraternal Omani people. The talks focused on the situation in the region and the Arab arena.

Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs, today received Yusuf ibn 'Alawi. The chief of the Arab Homeland Desk at the Foreign Ministry, the head of the Arab Department at the Omani Foreign Ministry, and the Omani ambassador in Damascus attended the meeting. The talks dealt with bilateral relations between the two sisterly countries, issues in the Arab and international arenas, and issues of common interest.

Departs Following Visit

JN1101130089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] Yusuf ibn 'Alawi, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, and his delegation left Damascus at noon today after a 2-day visit to the country during which he met with President Hafiz al-Asad. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs; the directors of the Arab Homeland and Protocol Departments at the Foreign Ministry; and the Omani ambassador in Damascus.

Ba'th Party Spokesman on 'New U.S. Aggression'

JN0801151389 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1415 GMT 8 Jan 89

[Text] In Damascus, a spokesman for the Foreign Relations Office in the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Command has asserted that the new U.S. aggression against the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah comes as part of U.S. policy based on reimposing its hegemony on the Mediterranean region. At the same time, this aggression is an example of the continued aggression against the Arab nation as well as a threat to this nation's entity and fate. U.S. policy also threatens Mediterranean security and world peace, he said. Moreover, this aggression confirms the U.S. Administration's disregard of nations and peoples and refutes the claims that this Administration works for peace in the region, he added.

Paper Views UN Debate on Libyan Complaint

JN0801082189 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 8 Jan 88

[From the press review]

[Text] In one of its commentaries today, the newspaper TISHRIN tackles the UN Security Council's deliberations on the Libyan complaint against the U.S. aggression and points out that these deliberations have shown that the United States is isolated and that its anti-Libya campaign has not met with a favorable response or understanding from the international community, not even its European allies.

TISHRIN affirms that the suspect moves against the fraternal Libyan state cannot be separated from the old-new U.S.-Zionist scheme seeking to fragment the Arab region and abort any Arab orientation seeking to achieve an effective solidarity.

The newspaper indicates that Israel is using chemical weapons and toxic gases on a large scale and within the sight and hearing of the international community and adds that if any party deserves to be condemned and see public opinion mobilized against it, it is Israel.

TISHRIN concludes by saying: This prevaricating U.S. stand must be a new motive prompting Arabs everywhere to expedite efforts to realize their desired solidarity, adhere to the entirety of their rights, and expel defeatists from their ranks. All Arabs know that Israel's schemes cover all Arab territory and that the attempts under way to deal single-handedly with them, one state after the other, is more dangerous to their future than direct aggression.

Afghanistan

Committee Discusses Food Shortages in Kabul

LD1201221689 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] A session of the commission to prevent hoarding and for regulating issues concerning the distribution of basic materials was held yesterday afternoon under the chairmanship of Vice President 'Abdurrahim Hatif in his office.

In order to end the existing shortage of basic materials and the defects in the transportation and distribution of them, and in order to solve the difficulties of the citizens of the city of Kabul in obtaining bread, the commission decided to distribute 120 tonnes of flour daily to the bakeries instead of 100 tonnes, which previously had been distributed daily to the bakeries of Kabul.

A report about the measures taken by the government concerning the loading and transportation of commodities to Kabul and measures to prevent hoarding was also presented to the commission.

During yesterday's session to each member of the commission was assigned a particular task to carry out careful and comprehensive work in this respect and to report the results of their actions to the commission.

Armed Forces' Efforts Praised

LD1201223889 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] The security authorities make the following announcement:

In recent days the transportation of foodstuffs and oil to Kabul has continued despite the severe weather and snow along the Salang Highway thanks to the indefatigable and heroic efforts by the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan. In these past few days, 2,309 tonnes of wheat, 39 tonnes of ghee, 23 tonnes of sugar, and a large quantity of diesel oil, gasoline, and kerosene have been transported to Kabul.

Our Armed Forces are carrying out valuable and praiseworthy services in order to ensure the primary needs of Kabul citizens 24 hours per day. Still, at times, convoys of foodstuffs and primary goods have come under attack by highway robbers, who resort to criminal action in the villages and regions bordering the highways. Naturally, this means that our Armed Forces must decisively crush the troublemakers for the sake of getting the goods needed by the Kabul citizens through to them. During these actions, such villages and localities are liable to be damaged.

Therefore, the extremist elements should realize that they bear the burden of responsibility for the damage to the aforementioned villages. It is the duty of the units and companies of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan to protect the security of the highway in order to ensure the basic and primary necessities of the children, women, and all Kabul citizens, particularly during this severe winter.

54 Long-Range Rockets Seized in Kariz-e Mir

LD1301064689 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0439 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 12, BAKHTAR—Over one hundred persons attached to the extremist groups have been killed and 68 others wounded as a result of the mopping up operations carried out by the Armed Forces in the past 24 hours in the Provinces of Qandahar, Herat, Nangarhar, Konduz, Laghman and Kabul, report our military correspondents from the said provinces.

The reports add that a large number of arms and munitions which belonged to the extremists were either seized or destroyed during the said operations by the Armed Forces.

According to another report 54 long range surface to surface rockets which had been hidden by the extremists in Kariz-e Mir area of Shakar Darreh District, Kabul Province, for launching against residential areas of Kabul city were detected and transferred timely by the security forces today.

Based on other reports, over 110 extremist elements have been recently killed as a result of the armed clashes which occured among the extremists in various parts of Parvan, Paktia, Faryab and Kabul Provinces.

Armed Forces Operations Against Rebels Noted

LD1201210489 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Excerpts] The units and companies of the Armed Forces have carried out a series of operations in the last 24 hours in villages located in Qandahar, Herat, Nangarhar, Konduz, and Laghman Provinces and in the suburbs of Kabul Province to defend and maintain peace and stability. Heavy losses were inflicted on the extremist warmongering groups.

The BAKHTAR military session reports that the Armed Forces inflicted heavy blows on a warmongering extremist group yesterday. The group tried to disrupt security in the Shur Andam region. As a result of this operation 19 extremists were crushed and 7 were severely injured. One surface-to-surface launcher unit, one mortar, and two enemy hideouts were destroyed.

According to another report, as a result of an Armed Forces attack on extremists' gathering places in the (Malajat) region of Qandahar Province, 35 extremists were crushed and dozens were injured. In the course of this action three rocket missile units, three mortars, and three enemy DShK's were destroyed.

Another report from Nangarhar Province says that the Armed Forces attacked extremists' gathering places in the (Rodat) District and the greater (Shinwar) area. As a result 10 extremists were crushed, and 1 DShK and 4 of their weapons and ammunition dumps were destroyed.

Also during the last 4 days, the Armed Forces have launched attacks on extremists' gathering places in the villages of Shiveh and Kuz Konar District. As a result a number of the extremists have been eliminated and and 43 of them have been injured. During this operation, two enemy rocket missile units and one enemy truck carrying weapons and ammunition have been destroyed.

During another operation by the Armed Forces in the [placename indistinct] region yesterday, 10 warmongers were killed and 12 others were injured. One DShK and several enemy weapons and ammunition dumps were also destroyed.

Also, during an operation by the Armed Forces in the Zadrani) region, four extremists were killed and six others were wounded. During the operation two weapons were seized.

In a report from Helmand Province, as a result of an Armed Forces operation in the Gereshk Distirct, three extremists were killed and another four were wounded.

A report from Herat Province states that during an Armed Forces operation 18 extremists were crushed and a number of others were wounded.

Also in an operation in the [placename indistinct] area, Laghman Province, six warmongers were killed and three were wounded. Six assorted weapons were seized at the operation.

The BAKHTAR military section adds that recently internecine clashes have intensified between the extremists and the opposition in various parts of the country. During such clashes in Parvan, Paktia, and Faryab Provinces, as well as in parts of Kabul Province, 110 people from both sides were killed, including one ringleader, 'Abdul Habib, and 59 were wounded. Also, an extremist ringleader in Kabul Province, (Khoday Dad), who was travelling to Paktia Province, was killed along with eight others of his group when his car hit a landmine planted by an enemy group along the road. [passage omitted]

'Severe Clashes,' Mujahidin Attacks Reported

BK1201143789 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan speak of severe clashes between the mujahidin and Kabul regime forces. The mujahidin launched successful attacks on the Shirin Tagab District of Faryab Province and captured 20 military posts in and around the district. A total of 50 Kabul forces, including militia command, were killed in the attack. The mujahidin, after fierce fighting north of Meymaneh, capital of Faryab, gained control of a military base, captured 130 Kabul forces, and seized a large amount of ammunition. Reports say that 30 soldiers of the 7th Mechanized Division defected to the mujahidin. The mujahidin also carried out successful operations on military installations in and around Jalalabad, (Tor Kotal), and Qandahar.

Violations Notices Submitted to UN Mission

Notice No 180

LD1201140089 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 11 Jan 89

[Text] The Afghan Foreign Ministry's Liaison Office with the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan [UNGOMAP] reports that late this evening, the Foreign Ministry's 180th [number as heard] notice on 11 cases of the Pakistani authorities' clear violation of the Geneva accords was handed to the mission in Kabul. The notice provided comprehensive information on the sending of arms and ammunition convoys to extremists inside Afghanistan, thereby causing death and destruction in our country.

The mission was asked to investigate these violations of the Geneva accords under Paragraph 7 of Document 4 of the accords, and to report its findings to the Republic of Afghanistan and to the UN secretary general's representative.

Notice No 181

LD1301064789 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0433 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 12, BAKHTAR—181st notice of the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan on the gross violations of Geneva accords by Pakistan was submitted by the Liaison Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan, UNGOMAP, here today.

The notice stipulates the violations made by Pakistan of the 2nd article, Document No. 1 of Geneva accords and has asked the mission to assess the violations and to inform the concerned sides and the UN representatives of its findings.

Notice No 182

LD1201140189 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0439 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] Kabul, Jan. 11, BAKHTAR—The one hundred and eighty second [number as received] notice of the Republic of Afghanistan containing eleven instances of violations by Pakistan of the Geneva accords was submitted to the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) here today.

In the notice strict information on the dispatching of caravans of arms and ammunition from the Pakistani territory to the extremist groups into the Republic of Afghanistan are given.

It asks UNGOMAP that on the basis of paragraph seven, document number four of the Geneva accords investigate the Pakistani violations.

Bangladesh

Accord Reached With India To Check Border Crime

BK1201131489 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] Bangladesh and India have agreed to take stringent measures against smuggling and other cross-border crimes like illegal trespassing, drug and human trafficking. They have agreed to take effective measures in apprehending transfrontier traffickers and exchange information about them. The two sides also decided to settle the outstanding border dispute for maintaining peaceful atmosphere in the border areas of the two countries.

The decisions were taken during the border coordination conference between Bangladesh Rifles [BDR] and Indian BSF [Border Security Force]. The 3-day meeting ended in Dhaka today. The lists of common transfrontier criminals, smugglers, and dalals [agents of criminals] were exchanged. Director General of BDR Major General Sadiqur Rahman Chowdhury led the Bangladeshi side at the talks while the Indian side was led by BSF Director General H.P. Bhatnagar.

India

Commentary Assails U.S. for Tension in Mideast

BK1301114989 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Commentary by political commentator K.G. Joglekar-:"New Tension in a Sensitive Area"]

[Text] The resolution sponsored by the nonaligned countries in the United Nations Security Council has been vetoed by the United States and her allies, but few impartial observers will accept Washington's version that it shot down the two Libyan MiG aircraft in self defense. Within the United States itself doubts have been expressed about the official version.

Thoughts naturally go back to the shooting down of an Iranian airliner by the United States Navy in the Gulf last July. The official version then was that the giant airliner was making straight for the American cruiser. Later evidence showed that actually it was not descending but ascending. Nearly 300 civilians lost their lives in that incident. There was no loss of life in the shooting down of the two Libyan aircraft last week. But in the light of the Airbus incident, doubts will always persist about the need to shoot them down.

It is sad that the United States and its allies were not prepared to accept even the amended resolution, which had been watered down. Instead of condemnation, the resolution merely deplored the shooting down. But even this was not acceptable to three permanent members of the Security Council. What gives rise to further doubts is the known antipathy of the United States to Libya. Three years ago, the United States bombed Tripoli and Banghazi. This was said to be in retaliation for Libya's support to terrorists.

The shooting down of the two Libyan MiG aircraft also came about at a time, when the United States talked openly of a strike against a plant in Libya, which it said was manufacturing chemical weapons. The idea of a strike has been given up at least for the time being, the danger is still there though Libya has offered to subject the plant to inspection by international experts. Libya has also contributed to the growing tension by the way in which it has defined her territorial waters.

What causes concern is the effect that incidents like this can have on world peace and particularly peace in West Asia. Last year saw a lessening of tension in several key areas. In the eastern Mediterranean, there was a slow but perceptible move towards peace. This movement towards peace will be in jeopardy if new tension erupts in the western Mediterranean. It was therefore that India insisted that the situation must not be allowed to deteriorate. India was voicing the views of the nonaligned community of nations which said that the American action against Libya violated international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

Significantly, soon after the shooting down of the Libyan planes and the American threat of action against the Libyan plant has come the report of the first Israeli attack on what has been called terrorist hideouts in south Lebanon. Last year, there were 25 such attacks in which more than 100 people were killed and nearly 400 wounded. The attack in the new year shows that Israel will continue to persist in these raids. The danger signs are thus very much there. There will be nothing but anarchy if individual nations take on themselves the role of international policemen.

Actions like this vitiate the climate of peace built with so much efforts last year. Precipitate action by any country—whether the United States, Libya, or Israel—will certainly have far-reaching effects and worsen the international situation. It was this danger against which the Indian delegate to the United Nations cautioned when he said that the United Nations Security Council should ensure that the growing tension in the region does not escalate into confrontation and strife and develop into a serious

threat to international peace and security. No lives were lost in the shooting down by the United States of the two Libyan MiG aircraft, but the issues involved are basic.

Can any nation, howsoever powerful and well-meaning, arrogate to itself the role of an international policeman and can the world allow new tensions to develop and endanger world peace?

Police Kill 3 'Hardcore Terrorists' in Punjab
BK1301091389 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Text] In Punjab, three hardcore terrorists have been killed in an encounter with the police in Gurdaspur District early this morning. One of the terrorists has been identified as Avtar Singh of Bholewal. According to an official spokesman, the encounter took place, when a police party was ambushed by terrorists near village Chaudharywala in Batala area.

A large number of arms and ammunition, including a rocket launcher, two rockets, two AK-47 rifles, and a hand grenade and a booby trap were recovered from their possession. These terrorists were involved in a number of crimes, including the killing of four persons at Bhujiwali village on Wednesday [11 January] night.

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Delivers Friday Prayers Sermon
LD1301115089 Tehran IRNA in English 1145 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 13, IRNA—Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani joined other Iranian leaders in bitter condemnation of the fierce battles between the main Shi'a groups in Lebanon, describing the bloodbath as "revolting".

Amal and Hizballah "are both committing murder and the Islamic Republic is disgusted," he said in his Friday prayer sermon.

The fighting in recent days has claimed the lives of at least 141 and wounded another 307 combatants and civilians since 31 December in some of the worst inter-Shi'a battles in Beirut and south Lebanon.

"They have been killing themselves for days and ruining the people's (lives) and each group thinks it is doing a good thing," Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani said.

"We have urged them so many times (to stop fighting) but each one thinks he is serving Islam... This is by no means acceptable."

An Iranian delegation led by Foreign Ministry director general for Middle East and North Africa Mahmud Hashemi has been in Lebanon to mediate between the rival groups.

First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati has also been in Damascus to discuss the issue with Syria that maintains several thousand troops in Beirut.

In the meantime Israel and its Christian Phalangist allies—the main enemy of Lebanese Muslims—as well as Iraq who is also supporting the Phalange were witnessing the elimination of the Shi'a groups by themselves, the speaker said.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani echoed the belief of other Iranian leaders that the fighting was being instigated by "mysterious" elements who had penetrated both groups.

In last week's Friday prayers, President 'Ali Khamene'i expressed deep sadness over the conflict and called for its immediate end.

The speaker's strong call to stop the killings was backed by cries of support from tens of thousands of worshippers attending the prayers at Tehran University campus and its surrounding area.

"These worshippers with their confirmation have declared to you who are killing each other in the name of Shi'ism that your action is totally condemned," he said.

"Whichever group (lays its guns down) first will be the winner."

Hashemi-Rafsanjani also lamented the Paris international conference on the prohibition of chemical weapons for failing to point the finger at Iraq as the principle violator of a ban on the use of chemical weapons.

"This is how they are trying to combat chemical weapons," he said. "It's like talking of combatting nuclear weapons but not to mention Hiroshima."

He accused the West of organizing the conference, attended by some 145 nations, to calm world public outrage on the flagrant and widespread deployment of the weapons by the Iraq in particular against the Kurds in northern Iraq.

The five-day event ended Wednesday with a six-point declaration calling for the rapid approval of a new convention banning the production and use of chemical weapons and destruction of existing stockpiles.

TV pictures from the Iraqi town of Halabjah where 5,000 died in the worst single Iraqi gas attack in March last year shook the conscience of the international community and brought pressure on western leaders who backed Iraq in the war with Iran, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said.

"The Western leaders started to think of how to save Saddam and to save themselves" from the wrath of world public opinion and made a "wicked" decision to organize a conference, he said.

"These gentlemen who themselves armed Iraq and gave her the material and the technique of (how to produce chemical weapons) are now in charge of combating chemical weapons."

"(Think of the) poor people who hoped the world's problems could be solved by these (powers) who are resorting to such hypocrisy and... cheating," he added.

In his second sermon, Tehran's temporary Friday prayers leader also termed Imam Khomeyni's message to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev as a means to "appreciate" his courage in reforming Soviet politics and society.

"The imam as a religious leader cannot ignore those individuals who in the birthplace of Marxism find the courage to... openly admit to the faults of this significant historical trend," he said.

What President Gorbachev was doing was as important as the formation of Marxism as an ideology in the 19th century, he added.

The message was also a "fatherly advice" to the Soviet leader not to fall into the West's trap and "to think deeper" about other schools of thought such as Islam.

In addition the message, the first by the leader of the Islamic revolution written to a foreign leader, was an interpretation for tens of millions of Soviet Muslims on events happening within their country, the speaker said.

Soviet Gas Delegation Arrives, Signs Protocol

LD1201172889 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] A team of Soviet technical experts, headed by Kashirov, USSR deputy gas industry minister, arrived in Tehran today. Their arrival is in line with the implementation of the Iran-USSR economic cooperation protocol. They will visit the main Iran gas pipeline and will assess the possibilities of exporting Iranian gas to the USSR. On arrival the team members were welcomed by the deputy oil minister and managing director of the National Iranian Gas Company.

In an interview with a Central News Unit correspondent, the head of the Soviet technical delegation said: The Soviet experts, accompanied by Iranian experts, will survey and inspect the main gas pipeline, booster stations, and the technical establishments of the Iranian gas industry.

The deputy oil minister and managing director of the National Iranian Gas company said: According to the protocol which has been signed, the two countries have agreed in principle that Iran export 2-3 billion cubic meters of gas annually to the Soviet Union. He added: Under present conditions of gas production, consumption, and export, there is no need to build new gas pipelines to export gas to the Soviet Union. He said building new gas pipelines is intended only to meet the expansion of gas consumption in the domestic market.

Cairo Papers on Khomeyni's Message to Gorbachev

LD1201180889 Tehran IRNA in English 1726 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] Athens, Jan. 12, IRNA—All Egyptian dailies on their front page last Tuesday reported briefly on Imam Khomeyni's historic message sent to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev on January 4.

AL-AHRAM, admitting that Imam Khomeyni has advised the Soviets to study Islamic thought instead of materialism, said the founder of the Islamic Republic urged Gorbachev not to turn towards the West to solve its problems.

"He (Imam Khomeyni) stressed in his message sent last week that Iran easily could still fill the idelogical vacuum in the Soviet ruling system," AL-AHRAM noted.

It concluded by quoting an IRNA despatch that the leader of the Islamic revolution asked the Soviet president to send some of his experts to the holy city of Qom to learn Islamic thought instead of materialism.

However, as usual the daily betrayed its sectarian thinking by inserting the word 'Shi'a' in its title which occurred nowhere in the imam's message, the first of its kind to a foreign leader. Nontheless it unwittingly did a great service to Egyptian Muslims by acquainting them with the truth, albeit in brief and in a distorted manner.

Opposition daily AL-WAFD was more sincere and said the imam warned Gorbachev against the pitfalls of capitalism and offered him the Islamic alternative.

Imam Khomeyni's message has as a precedence the immortal epistles of the last and greatest prophet, Mohammad (S.A.W.) [may God's peace be upon him], to the rulers of his day especially the Persian and Byzantine kings, inviting them towards the truth of Islam.

Appreciating Mikhail Gorbachev's courage for changes in the Soviet system and his bold step for airing the Muslim call to prayer (azan) on Soviet radio and television "after 70 years of suppression," the imam suggested it was time he reconsidered the erroneous policies of his predecessors for fighting God and religion.

"It was clear to all henceforth communism should be looked for into [as received] the museums of political history," the imam had said.

Musavi, Delegation To Visit Rome, Warsaw
LD1201162689 Tehran IRNA in English 1533 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 12, IRNA—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi heading a top level delegation will depart for Rome on January 16 on a two-day official visit at the invitation of his Italian counterpart Ciriaco de Mita.

During his visit, the first of its kind to a West European state, Musavi will hold talks with Italian president and prime minister on mutual ties and international issues.

Mines and Metals Minister Mohammad Reza Ayatollahi, First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, Acting Commerce Minister 'Abdol Hoseyn Vahaji, Head of Majlis (Parliament) Foreign Relations Committee Hojjat ol-Eslam Sadiq Khalkhali and deputy ministers of energy, construction jihad and housing and urban development will accompany the Iranian premier on his visit.

Although it was announced that Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti might visit Tehran in December 1988 or early January 1989, the trip was indefinitely postponed.

Italy, one of Iran's major economic partners is a nonpermanent member of the U.N. Security Council. Iranian and Italian diplomats met in Rome time and again last year and discussed issues pertinent to U.N. Resolution 598 seeking to end the Iraqi-imposed war.

At present, Italian officers make up part of the United Nations Iran-Iraq Monitoring Group (UNIIMOG) stationed on Iran-Iraq borders.

After visiting Rome, Premier Musavi will arrive in Warsaw for a three day official visit at the invitation of his Polish counterpart Mieczyslaw Rakowski, and will hold talks with the Polish president and prime minister.

Mahallati on UN Moves To Break Talks Deadlock
LD1201194789 Tehran IRNA in English 1936 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] Shiraz, Fars Prov., Jan. 12, IRNA—The U.N. secretary general would start new moves in the coming days in order to break the current deadlock in the Iran-Iraq peace talks and facilitate implementation of Resolution 598, said Iran's U.N. Envoy Mohammad Ja'far Mahallati today.

"The U.N. Security Council as a first hand body responsible for 598's enforcement, cannot and should not remain indifferent towards Iraq's delay to comply with the first article of the resolution," he added.

Article One, calls for withdrawal of the warring forces to the international boundaries, and while Iran has accordingly pulled back its forces, Iraq continues to occupy hundreds of kilometers of Iranian soil.

"The council's responsibility has become even more crucial in the light of regional countries' concern over the fragile ceasefire," he said.

Mahallati, talking to the Shiraz-based daily 'KHABAR-E JUNUB' (SOUTHERN NEWS) was referring to the August 20 armistice which went into effect after almost eight years of Iraqi aggression, and is holding out despite numerous Iraqi violations, largely because of the Islamic Republic's goodwill.

Elsewhere, commenting on the U.N. role in the world arena, he said today the emphasis is on peaceful settlement of disputes.

In such situation it is expected of the U.N. to play a more effective role in the settlement of regional disputes, he concluded.

Lavasani Leaves for Nonaligned Meeting in Cyprus
LD1201152589 Tehran IRNA in English 1522 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 12, IRNA—Deputy Foreign Minister for International Affairs Mohammad Hoseyn Lavasani headed a delegation to Nicosia today to take part in the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) ministerial session.

The three-day session will be held as of Friday in the Cypriot capital to review NAM's policy and study necessary changes concerning recent political, economic and international developments.

The session will also study the next NAM summit to be held in Belgrade and foreign ministerial meets.

Khamene'i Rejects Dependence on World Technology
LD1201172789 Tehran IRNA in English 1600 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] Khorramabad, Lorestan Prov, Jan. 12, IRNA—The president made it clear today that although world technology and assistance is required to reconstruct the country "on no account will Iran become dependent nor will we get this technology at the expense of our self-dignity and independence."

"Our greatest Islamic and revolutionary task at present is reconstruction," reiterated Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i in his address to the provincial administrative council.

He foresaw a bright future for the country and pointed out that Iranian officials should make proper use of the vast capabilities at hand so that they can tread the course on a firm footing.

The president called on administrative officials to serve people calling on them with "patience and to seriously avoid injustice, discrimination and favouritism."

Later in the day, Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i arrived in Borujerd, 100 kms northeast of the southwestern provincial capital and was accorded a warm welcome by thousands of local people who sacrificed several sheep in honour of the president.

Addressing the gathering he cautioned "if anyone supposes that superpowers and other enemies of Islam have stopped conspiring against the Islamic Republic, he is grossly mistaken."

The people should be on alert against enemy tricks and maintain their resistance if they wish to achieve honor and victory, he added.

Later the president met local 'ulema and theological students in Borujerd, and called on them to try to solve problems facing the society by relying on the rich Islamic faqih (jurisprudence).

"It is not the time for theological students to be engrossed in books alone, but rather they should get on the practical field acquiring a good command of regional and international issues and world political trends," Khamene'i concluded.

Afghan Opposition Leaders To Attend Seminar
LD1201143689 Tehran IRNA in English 1426 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 12, IRNA—Several leaders of the Pakistan-based seven-party Afghan alliance will come to Tehran at the invitation of the Foreign Ministry to participate in a seminar on Afghanistan due to be held here January 15-16.

Participants at the seminar are to read articles and deliver speeches on the political, historical, economic and social issues of the war-ravaged Muslim country.

Bazargan's Freedom Movement Files for Permit
LD1301071289 Tehran IRNA in English 0655 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 13, IRNA—The Freedom Movement (Nehzat-e Azadi-e) of former Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan has applied for a permit as a political party, the daily KEYHAN reported.

The daily said 19 other political groups had also filed for official recognition from the Interior Ministry since 31 December when the law on political parties came into effect after seven years.

They include the late Dr Sami's JAMA Party, the Society for the Defence of Freedom, and the Mojahedin-e Khalq Movement.

The Freedom Movement, formed in the late 1950's, dominated the provisional government after the victory of the Islamic revolution.

Bazargan's famous "step by step" policy faced wide opposition by the revolutionary public and political groups and finally the takeover of the American Embassy by Muslim students following the line of the imam in November 1979 brought his government down.

In the first Majlis elections the Freedom Movement won about six seats but refused to take part in the second and third Majlis elections.

Opposition to the Iraqi war was its most prominent stand in recent years.

Party applications will be studied by a commission of five members—two from the Majlis and one each from the Interior Ministry, the Prosecutor General's Office and the Supreme Judicial Council.

Loyalty to the Constitution is one of the main conditions for political activity.

Paper Assesses Future of Tudeh Party
PM0601125689 Tehran KEYHAN HAVA'I in Persian 21 Dec 88 p 7

[Editorial: "Uncertain Future of Tudeh Party on 47th Anniversary of Its Founding"]

[Text] The Tudeh Party, which is celebrating the 47th anniversary of its founding, still faces problems with regard to its most basic, fundamental issues and is determined somehow to break out of its deadlock. The current deadlock is a result of various conditions, both internal and external, while the political situation in Iran and across the world also plays an important part.

1. One of the most important elements contributing to the Tudeh Party's present condition is its political line of thought, which is mostly responsible for the current deadlock. Before the present conditions, including the arrest and imprisonment of a large group of its Central Committee in Iran and the reconstruction of a weak and shaky party outside the country, the Tudeh Party was trying to show its allegiance to the Islamic Republic of Iran and its Constitution. Through this method, it was making serious and widespread effort to infiltrate all important and sensitive military areas and use all its resources in the interest of the Soviet Union, and to give any information it gathered to the Soviets and the KGB. The conclusion of this cooperation, with the help of the Soviet espionage network, turned into a plot to topple the Islamic Republic regime. In reality, the Tudeh Party was following the interests of the Soviet Union in pursuing a line of opposition to and finally the destruction of the Islamic Republic regime. This effort was thwarted. The plot was discovered.

Some members of the Tudeh Party Committee were arrested and finally some key figures in the plot were executed. The conspiracy had failed.

The Tudeh Party was reformed outside the country with new members in key roles and, of course, this new setup was weakened right from the start with various divisions and internal squabbles. The lack of old, experienced ideologists and members in the new organization deepened the crisis in the party, especially when the old methods were condemned by such long-standing members as Kiyanuri and Ehsan Tabari and when they revealed the secret of the party's cooperation with the Soviets' spying network. On the other hand, the leftist groups, after the success of the Islamic revolution and the refinement of its anti-imperialist line, lost their popularity and support. These blows, together with the arrests and confessions of party leaders, meant more problems for the new setup outside the country and more restrictions.

These restrictions and the loss of popular support led to the new party leadership's forging alliances with groups such as the Mohahedin-e Khalq Organization and, to compensate for its weaknesses, to enlist the cooperation of other groups opposed to the Iranian regime.

2. Meanwhile, the international situation, especially in the Eastern bloc, did not correspond with the conditions of the Tudeh Party. The Soviet Union, which supported this party's actions in Iran and used its findings for its own interests, altered its outlook with Gorbachev's changes and paid more attention to internal problems and issues.

Gorbachev has paid a great deal of attention in his reform program to such parties' independence—as much as possible—and he does not see present world conditions as conducive to past Soviet policies of supporting such organizations and communist parties and affiliated bodies.

Of course, this new policy does not mean that the Soviets will abandon forever these movements and parties throughout the world. Gorbachev instead is emphasizing avoidance of troublesome interference in the affairs of other countries, which causes irritations and problems for the Soviet Union. He believes that the real East-West conflict will be in the field of technology and that this is where the fate of the two blocs will be decided. This is especially important as the Soviet Union has harmed by its direct support for communist parties in Third World countries like Afghanistan.

In this way, the Soviet Union has placed its former policies of interference in the affairs of other countries and support for parties and organizations linked to it within a broader policy of peaceful coexistence. This new Soviet policy no doubt will have an important affect on the policies of the Tudeh Party in Iran.

These types of parties were all supplied with policies as well as resources from the Eastern bloc, so under the present conditions with the threat of decreased support they will have problems in continuing their political life. Naturally, their activity and effectiveness also will be decreased. For the Tudeh Party, which is already suffering from a weak leadership, these developments mean more shortcomings.

3. One of the basic mistakes of the Tudeh Party's past leadership was to bring the party to the point of wanting to topple the Islamic Republic. This action not only did not have important or significant results for the party, but it also meant that conspiracy against the regime would block all its activities inside the country, destroying all chances of any activity with Iran.

This point does not mean that the Tudeh Party cannot become active within the framework of the Constitution. What it means is that the party failed once in society and, outside the country, it got nowhere with its slogans about destroying the regime. If the party now is formed again in Iran, it will be nothing but an announcement of yet another failed Tudeh attempt. Because of the many 180-degree turns and changes that it has gone through in the last few years, the few supporters inside the country will also lose faith in the party.

Therefore, the current leadership has no alternative but to increase its opposition to the Islamic Republic regime and to get closer to groups like the Mojahedin-e Khalq, whose only chance of survival is continued foreign support from the likes of the Iraqi Government. In this way, the Tudeh Party can to a certain extent keep its status quo.

Of course, in this union and social closeness of the two groups, it is the Tudeh Party that will be the victim of its cooperation with the Mojahedin-e Khalq, so it is unlikely that the Tudeh Party's call to all opposition groups to destroy the regime would achieve success.

The publication THE PEOPLE'S LETTER [NAME-YE MARDOM], the voice of the Tudeh published outside the country, refers to these same problems and deadlocks, stressing Tudeh support from inside Iran. It seems with this reference that what it wants to say is that the external elements in the issue are not to its liking, and this is also why it speaks of "discipline and innovation." The publication writes: We have no weapon except for innovation and discipline. Innovation is for finding the best approach to the struggle and discipline is for safeguarding ourselves and our comrades.

Therefore, despite the fact that the Tudeh Party is celebrating the 47th anniversary of its founding abroad, this group's activities have so far encountered much disturbance and danger. The party's present leadership has yet to find a solution to the issue of the party's existence and future.

We now quote TEHRAN TIMES publication Number 2885 which quotes THE PEOPLE'S LETTER in an editorial on the 47th anniversary of the Tudeh Party: THE PEOPLE'S LETTER, the official publication of the Tudeh Party which is printed in Stockholm, Sweden, has written an editorial in its latest issue: "Innovation and Discipline." It says: Last January's plenum of the Central Committee of the Tudeh Party reached important decisions on stepping up ideo-political struggles. The first step in this is to step up the party's activity. Without a doubt the implementation of the resolutions and decisions reached at the plenum will require the establishment of an understanding among all the democratic forces and all the resources available to the party. These actions include an effort to increase the party's involvement in all aspects of the struggle and the creation of a united front based on the two basic demands of freedom and peace.

At the moment the party wields quite considerable power, as was stated in the plenum. But so far we have been unable to make good use of this power. The difficult working conditions of clandestine activity and other elements have prevented us from doing so.

During their 47 years of proud existance, Tudeh Party members have shown in both words and deeds that they are in the forefront of a struggle for a better life for the working masses. History shows that they have suffered many losses along this path. We must remain faithful to this revolutionary principle.

Principles demand of every Tudeh Party member a search for the most logical method of struggle, a display of initiative in both covert and open activity and to consistency between words and deeds, in every single case without exception. Every Tudeh Party member must keep these principles in mind at all times. These guidelines must be taken into consideration in both group and individual activity. Under the conditions that prevail when a terrorist regime is in power, it is very difficult and dangerous to make individual contacts. Must one sacrifice this golden opportunity to the goal of trying to make personal contacts?

We Tudeh Party members will combat a regime which is armed to the teeth and which uses all types of fascist methods against those who oppose it. Our enemy has armed those elements who are supposed to crush us. In order to combat these plots we have no alternative but to display innovation and discipline. We need innovation to find the best way to combat the regime and we need discipline to safeguard ourselves and our comrades. Of course by discipline, we mean an aware type of discipline, not one of dictatorship or competition. Our Tudeh Party is against the type of discipline and command which crushes innovation at the outset. At the same time our party will strongly combat those who violate discipline. One must not forget for a single moment that democracy cannot be maintained within our party without an aware but iron discipline in both open activity and of course in covert action.

Pakistan

Afghan Allegation of 10 Jan Violation 'Rejected'

BK1201162389 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] Pakistan has rejected the protest made by Kabul authorities last Tuesday [10 January] alleging that on Monday morning, two Pakistani helicopters carrying some foreign advisers and officers of the Pakistan Armed Forces entered Afghanistan from Towr Kham side and landed at Ghazi Abad farm in Mohmand Dara (Wulas Wali) in Nangarhar Province before flying back.

The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office this afternoon and informed that the allegations had been investigated and were found to be baseless.

Bhutto Holds News Conference After Saudi Visit

BK1201160389 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto has described her talks with Saudi Arabia's King Fahd as useful. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad this afternoon after returning home from Saudi Arabia where she performed the minor pilgrimage, the prime minister said that she apprised King Fahd of the SAARC summit, Pakistan's relations with India including the Kashmir issue, and the latest situation in Afghanistan. The Saudi ruler briefed her on the problems faced by the Arab countries, including the Palestine issue, the Iran-Iraq war, and the situation in Lebanon. King Fahd said the Islamic world should realize the factors that contributed to discord in the Islamic community and should make efforts to resolve differences and promote peace and harmony in the region.

The prime minister said that the meeting provided an opportunity for a useful exchange of views on bilateral issues. She thanked King Fahd for granting her an opportunity to exchange views on bilateral ties, regional developments, and the problems facing the Islamic world. She invited the Saudi king to visit Pakistan, an invitation he accepted. She said that Islam calls for peace and that no progress is possible without peace.

In reply to a question on Soviet troops pullout from Afghanistan, Ms Benazir Bhutto said that the Soviet Union, which is a superpower, has promised to withdraw its troops by the 15th of next month and it is expected to fulfill this pledge. She said that probably a consultative group will be established that will make arrangements for the elections. She said that the group should be formed as early as possible because the date of the Soviet troop withdrawal is not far away.

Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, who was present at the news conference, said the Afghanistan issue came up for discussion and King Fahd has promised to extend Saudi Arabia's strong support to the Afghan mujahidin.

The prime minister said the government is drafting a formula under which investments in Pakistan by overseas Pakistanis and other investors will be encouraged. She said that the government will remove all obstacles to investment in industries and other sectors. She said the Pakistan People's Party's government would like to eradicate poverty, stabilize democracy and to promote and accelerate industrialization, thereby increasing employment opportunities. The government also wants to make Pakistan a country where the dignity and honor, and life and property of every individual is secured, where freedom prevails, and where economic opportunities are not meant for only the (?rich people)—rather a middle class should be created to bridge the gap between the rich and the poor.

In reply to a question, she said the government is considering appointing a permanent official to ascertain the difficulties and problems faced by Pakistanis working overseas. The embassies will also be directed to ascertain the problems faced by the overseas Pakistanis.

In reply to a question, the prime minister said that Pakistan will be happy to do everything it can for the promotion of peace and progress in the region as well among the Islamic countries. [passage omitted]

Urges USSR To Complete Withdrawal

BK1201142389 Hong Kong AFP in English 1411 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 12 (AFP)—Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto Thursday [12 January] called on the Soviet Union to honour its commitment under the Geneva Accords on Afghanistan and withdraw all its troops from that country by February 15.

Addressing a news conference on her return from Saudi Arabia after a three-day visit, Ms Bhutto said: "The Geneva accord is a written document and we expect the Soviet Union as a superpower to abide by its commitment."

Ms Bhutto said "the Afghan people who had waged a long struggle could not be subjected to any particular formula for a political settlement whether it was put forward by the Soviet Union, Pakistan or any outsider."

"Only that formula would succeed which was acceptable to all groups of the Afghan people," she said.

"Pakistan can only advise its friends to take necessary measures for a political settlement in Afghanistan," Ms Bhutto added.

She said it was "in the interest of peace to arrive at an acceptable political solution of the Afghan problem."

In this context she welcomed a plan for a consultative council to oversee elections for the future government in Afghanistan.

Ms Bhutto went to Saudi Arabia on a private visit to perform a pilgrimage to Islam's holiest cities of Mecca and Al-Madinah. She also held wide ranging talks, including on Afghanistan and the Palestinian problem, with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia on Wednesday.

On her talks with King Fahd, Ms Bhutto said: "Afghanistan came up for review and we briefed him about the present state of negotiations on the Afghan problem."

She said Saudi Arabia was a strong supporter of the Afghan resistance cause and appreciative of Pakistan's efforts to resolve the nine-year-old Afghan conflict through peaceful means. "King Fahd reaffirmed continued Saudi support on the Afghanistan issue," she added.

Ms Bhutto said she also briefed King Fahd on her talks with Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, explaining that "Kashmir remained the outstanding problem between Pakistan and India."

2 Jet Fighters Crash After 'Technical Problems'

BK1301100889 Hong Kong AFP in English 0923 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Text] Quetta, Pakistan, Jan 13 (AFP)—Two Pakistani Air Force F-6 fighter planes crashed near the border with Afghanistan this week after developing mechanical problems, informed sources said Friday [13 January].

The Chinese-made jet fighters crashed Tuesday and Thursday during routine flights over Pishin District, some 50 kilometres (30 miles) west of here, the sources said. Both pilots bailed out.

The planes both crashed after developing technical problems, they said.

The single-seat F-6 is the Chinese version of the Soviet MiG-19SF fighter which first flew in December 1961.

Pakistan's Air Force has about 140 F-6's and a factory was set up at Kamra, near Islamabad, with Chinese assistance in 1980 to manufacture some 4,000 of the plane's simpler components.

The plant is expected to be able to produce about 30 F-6's a year when it begins operating at full capacity.

Sri Lanka

LTTE Calls For Boycott of Parliamentary Polls

BK1301070089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0623 GMT 13 Jan 89

[Excerpts] Colombo, Jan 13 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's dominant Tamil separatist group called Friday [13 January] for a boycott of the February 15 parliamentary elections, the first in 11 years, saying they would lead to further bloodshed.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in a statement released here said the election "will not solve the basic problems of Tamils, but bring further chaos and bloodshed" to minority Tamils.

In the group's first response to the polls, the LTTE said that Tamil groups which plan to contest the elections had "betrayed the cause of Tamils for petty political ambitions." [passage omitted]

The statement said Tamil groups which plan to take part in the elections "have revealed themselves as the traitors of the Tamil-speaking people by opting for the parliamentary path" and disavowing separatism.

The main Tamil political party, the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), is contesting the general election under an electoral pact with three former militant groups.

A former ally of the LTTE, the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students (EROS), is also in the fray as independent candidates.

"These treacherous elements have now launched a fallacious campaign that they are prepared to accept interim solutions to advance the cause of the Tamils," the LTTE said referring to the four-party alliance.

"Thirty years of Tamil parliamentary representation had failed to resolve any of the fundamental problems of the Tamil people.

"The Sri Lankan parliamentary system based on the tyranny of the majority has helped to institutionalise and legitimise racism and deprived our people of their fundamental human and political rights," the LTTE said.

It alleged that the parliamentary elections would be held under "Indian military intimidation, threat and blackmail" and warned that "by callously disregarding the sentiments and aspirations of the Tamil people, the Government of India is committing a grave historical blunder." [passage omitted]

TULF Opposes Withdrawal of Indian Forces

BK1201042889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1414 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Excerpts] Colombo, Jan 12 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's main Tamil party Thursday said it was opposed to Indian troops withdrawing from the island before fully implementing an autonomy package in line with a New Delhi-backed peace plan.

The Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) in an election manifesto released here Thursday said "the Indian Peace Keeping Forces (IPKF) should not leave without ensuring full autonomy for Tamil speaking people."

The statement came as New Delhi began a phased withdrawal of its 45,000 to 50,000 troops from Sri Lanka's Tamil-populated northern and eastern regions following a request by new President Ranasinghe Premadasa.

The TULF's Tamil-language document for the February 15 parliamentary poll said charges of atrocities by the IPKF against civilians had been brought to the notice of the Indian government and "remedial action taken." [passage omitted]

The TULF has formed an electoral pact with three former rebel groups to contest the general election and has pledged "to give political leadership to Tamil militant groups."

The dominant separatist group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), is boycotting the election and is continuing a bloody bush war against Indian troops after refusing to surrender its arms. [passage omitted]

'Detainees' Freed as Emergency Rule Ends

BK1201100489 Hong Kong AFP in English 0944 GMT 12 Jan 89

[By Amal Jayasinghe]

[Text] Colombo, Jan 12 (AFP)—More than 200 detainees held in police stations and military camps in Sri Lanka were freed Thursday as the government ended five years of emergency rule diminishing the military's role, officials here said.

Some 99 suspects held at a detention camp outside the capital were handed over to their families while 110 were freed from the southern Boosa detention camp, military officials here said.

The release of suspects held in camps under extraordinary laws came after the government Wednesday lifted the emergency which gave sweeping powers to security forces to arrest and detain suspects.

Some 70 detainees will remain in jails, but become ordinary remand prisoners, meaning they will be entitled to bail and have access to lawyers, Prisons Commissioner H. G. Dharmadasa said.

He said action has already been taken against some detainees in prison and others would be charged Thursday.

Officials said some 267 cases involving major offences under emergency and the Prevention of Terrorism Act were filed in court in the past week.

"The objective is to speed up the process so that suspects can apply for bail," an official from the Attorney General's Department said.

With the lifting of the emergency, troops will not be deployed for normal law enforcement duties carried out by the regular police force, he said.

"Troops will no longer go on the offensive. They will not act on their own, but will be at the disposal of the police in case of some emergency like a riot," the official said.

He said military officials who acted as civil administrators in troubled areas using emergency powers will cease to function with immediate effect, but they will carry out their normal work in their respective garrisons.

Home Affairs Secretary Cyril Gamage said all Army officers, except one, who acted as top civil servants in different districts had been replaced by civil servants. He could not immediately say how many had been replaced.

"By and large, civilian administrators have already taken over. We have only one outstanding case in (central) Badulla District and that too will be sorted out very soon," Mr Gamage said.

A Defence Ministry statement Wednesday said newly-elected President Ranasinghe Premadasa had "taken into account the improving security situation" in revoking the emergency three days before it was due to expire.

Information Minister Festus Perera told reporters Wednesday that the president was "keen to release people against whom there are no charges."

The lifting of the tough laws also meant greater freedom for opposition activity, observers here said.

The government move came less than five weeks before parliamentary elections, the first in 11 years.

Opposition groups have been agitating for scrapping the emergency which made public demonstrations, strikes and anti-government rallies illegal. It was first imposed on May 18, 1983 to combat anti-government militants.

Official records showed some 2,200 detainees at the end of December, with hundreds of them held under emergency regulations. Military officials said nearly 600 were freed between January 1 and 5 as they had insufficient evidence against them.

Most were taken in for alleged involvement with the Sinhalese extremist Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front) which is continuing a violent anti-government campaign.

President Premadasa told senior officials Tuesday that he had no plans to reimpose the emergency.

"It is enough (that) we have lived under emergency rule for five years. So I have decided not to reimpose the emergency ... Peace is being restored in our country," Mr Premadasa said.

More Detainees To Be Freed

BK1201112189 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 12 Jan 89

[Text] One hundred sixty people detained under the emergency regulations for involvement in subversive activities were released today following the lift of state of emergency; 110 of them were released from the detention camp in Boosa and 50 from the detention camp in Moratuwa. They were arrested by the security forces for putting up subversive posters and other such activity.

Those arrested for serious offenses, such as possessing explosives and weapons, have been charged under the prevention of terrorism act. Legal action will be taken against them.

Military sources said more detainees will released in batches in the coming days from the two camps. They said a large number of detainees have already been released in the last few days.

Domestic Flights To Restart After 5-Year Haitus

BK1201110389 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1010 GMT 12 Jan 89

["OANA/pool" Item]

[Text] Colombo, 12 Jan (LANKAPUVATH)—With the lifting of the state of emergency at midnight yesterday [11 January] after a period of five and half years, Sri Lanka's civil domestic aviation industry is being revived and the country's seven military airfields were open from this morning for civilian traffic.

Manager of the city domestic airfield at Ratmalana, 14 kilometres south of Colombo, K.D. Silva, said at a news conference this morning that two aircraft had left this morning for Jaffna and Vavuniya. One of them flew guests to a wedding in the north.

The domestic fleet comprising helicopters, and Cessna, Tomahawk and Cherokee fixed wing aircraft along with one made in Sri Lanka was on show today at the Ratmalana airport.

Another ten seater Cessna is due to arrive shortly from the United States.

Now that the emergency has been lifted, domestic aircraft operators said they anticipated a boom in tourist traffic.

A press release issued at the news conference on behalf of chairman, Airport and Aviation Services, (Sri Lanka Ltd.), General Cyril Ranatunge, stated that civil domestic aviation which happened to be dormant during the past few years has been revived again. With almost immediate effect, except for a routine security check which would be done at the point of departure, it is now possible to board an aircraft from the city domestic airfield at Ratmalana and fly to any part of Sri Lanka without any restriction.

Every encouragement will be given by the chairman, Airport and Aviation Services, to private airline operators to boost domestic flying in Sri Lanka. Whether it be charters or scheduled flights, the fare structure will be entirely a matter to be decided by the operators concerned. All facilities such as space, fuelling etc. at the various airfields will be provided as best as possible and improved in the future. Action has already been taken to re-surface the apron, taxiways, parking areas and parking areas for private vehicles with a view to giving a face lift to the airport. An uptodate restaurant that would cater to passengers and all users of the airport, will be ready by March this year. All this and with the enthusiasm of the private operators, domestic aviation in Sri Lanka will be given a big boost, particularly from the city domestic airport at Ratmalana.

'Subversives' Kill 3 Soldiers, Wound 5

BK1201143589 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1313 GMT 12 Jan 89

["OANA/pool" Item]

[Text] Colombo, Jan 12 (LANKAPUVATH)—Subversives ambushed a security force patrol killing three Sri Lankan soldiers and wounding five including an officer in the village of Kiwulla at Hungama in Sri Lanka's Southern Province district of Hambantota early this morning.

Official sources gave the time of the incident as 0020 hours (local time) today.

They told LANKAPUVATH that the soldiers had been travelling from Hambantota to Ambalantota when the vehicle they were travelling in came under fire. The driver of the vehicle was killed on the spot while two soldiers succumbed to their injuries at the Ambalantota Hospital.

The dead are Cpl. R.P.V.H. Wimalasena and Pte. B.D. Chandraratne of the 1st Gemunu Watch and Rifleman D.N. Seneviratne of the 1st Sinha Regiment.

Meanwhile, in Jaffna in the north, the Sri Lanka Navy arrested nine Sri Lankan Tamils engaged in smuggling and recovered the contraband along with the three boats used by the smugglers.

In the detection on Tuesday, three men smuggling 13 gunnies filled with copper and brass ware from Madagal to Kodikarai, India were arrested and handed over to the Kankesanthurai Police.

In two detections soon after midnight on 11 January at the same location, two more boats carrying 18 packages of sarees were detected by the Navy. Both vessels were travelling between Kodikarai and Madagal. Six men who had been in the boats were handed over to the Kankesanthurai Police with the contraband.

These detections were in addition to an earlier one by the Sri Lanka Navy in which six men were detected while attempting to smuggle in stainless steel utensils at about 2130 hours (local time) on January 9th. The detection was made two miles west of Analativu while the men were procceding from India to Sri Lanka. The men and the contraband were handed over to the Kankesanthurai police.